

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 101, Vol. IV.

Saturday, December 3, 1864.

{ Price Fourpence:
Stamped, Fivepence

SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

ROYAL SCHOOL OF NAVAL ARCHITECTURE AND MARINE ENGINEERING.

SESSION 1864-65.

The following Courses of Public Lectures will be given in connexion with the above School. Programmes, giving the dates of these Lectures, which will be delivered from four to five o'clock in the afternoon, may be had on application at the South Kensington Museum.

Fee for the full course, £5, and for separate courses, 2s. 6d. per lecture. Officers in H.M. Service are admitted at reduced fees.

SUBJECT.	LECTURER.
1. Inaugural Lecture	Rev. J. Woolley, LL.D.
2. On the Principles of Mechanics and Hydrostatics, Machinery, and Elements of Mechanism (12 lectures)	The Rev. B. M. Cowie, B.D.
3. On the Mechanical and Chemical Properties of Iron; and on the Metallurgy of Iron (6 lectures)	John Percy, M.D., F.R.S.
4. On the Properties of Different Kinds of Timber; its Application and Durability (3 lectures)	T. Laslett, Timber Inspector H.M. Dockyard, Woolwich.
5. On the Use and Application of Iron to form Mechanical Structures (6 lectures)	Prof. Pole, F.R.S.
6. On the Practical Construction of Ships in Wood and Iron; and the Method of Combining Timber with Iron in Shipbuilding; and on Forms of Ships (8 lectures)	E. J. Reed, Chief Constructor of the Navy.
7. On Marine Steam Engines and Boilers (8 lectures)	A. Murray, C.E., Chief Engineer, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.
8. On the Strength of Materials as applied to Shipbuilding (3 lectures)	Prof. Rankine, F.R.S.
9. On the Motion of Bodies through Water, the Resistance of Fluids, and the Motion of Waves (3 lectures)	Prof. Rankine, F.R.S.
10. On the Stability and Oscillation of Ships (3 lectures)	W. Froude.
11. On the Mechanism of Masts, Rigging, and Sails, and Steering Apparatus (6 lectures)	F. K. Barnes and N. Barnaby, Assistant Constructors of the Navy.
12. On the Principles of Marine Propulsion (4 lectures)	J. Crossland, Assistant Constructor of the Navy.
13. On Screw Propellers (1 lecture)	F. Pettit Smith.
14. On the Calculations and Curves used in Shipbuilding (4 lectures)	C. W. Merrifield, F.R.S., Principal.
15. On Magnetic Errors, Compensations, and Corrections, with special reference to Iron Ships and their Compasses (3 lectures)	The Astronomer Royal.
16. On the Fitting up, Equipment, Stores, Armament, and Outfit of Ships of War (6 lectures)	F. K. Barnes and N. Barnaby, Assistant Constructors of the Navy.
17. On Lloyd's Rules for Classing of Wood and Iron Ships (2 lectures)	J. H. Ritchie, Surveyor of Lloyd's.
18. On Naval Artillery, and Naval Tactics (6 lectures)	Capt. L. G. Heath, R.N., C.B.
19. On Board of Trade Regulations (2 lectures)	R. Murray, C.E., Engineer-Surveyor to the Board of Trade.

Mr. W. Fairbairn, F.R.S., has kindly consented to give one or more Lectures on "Strength of Materials," of which the dates will be fixed hereafter.

TEMPERANCE PERMANENT LAND AND BUILDING SOCIETY.

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(Signed) HENRY SWAN, Patentee.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—The NEXT ANNUAL MEETING of the ASSOCIATION will be held in Birmingham, under the Presidency of JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq., M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c., Professor of Geology in the University of Oxford.

The Meeting will commence on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1865.

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RUSSELL LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, GREAT CORAM STREET, RUSSELL SQUARE. ESTABLISHED 1806.

The ANNUAL COURSE OF LECTURES at this Institution will commence on Tuesday, 13th of December next.

DURING THE SEASON Lectures on various subjects will be delivered by FRANK BUCKLAND, M.A., Professor Donaldson, Professor De Morgan, Alexander J. Ellis, F.R.S., Dr. Gladstone, F.R.S., J. Glaisher, F.R.S., George Grossmith, Professor Hewitt Key, M.A., F.R.S., Professor Masson, M.A., Dr. Edward Smith, F.R.S., Henry Wainwright, and Edmund Yates.

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS under the direction of Mr. Apotommas, Mr. Suchet Champion, Mr. Donald King, Mr. T. J. Williams, and Mrs. Arthur Wilmore.

DETAILED PROGRAMMES may be had upon application. Tickets of Admission to the entire Course of Lectures, &c., 10s. 6d.; to a Single Lecture, 2s. 6d. Members free. Member's Annual Subscription, Two Guineas; Proprietors, One Guinea.

EDWARD A. M'DERMOT, Secretary.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED with

Mr. JOHN PARRY will COMMENCE their SEASON To-morrow, Monday Evening, December 5th, at 8, with "The Rival Composers," "The Bard and His Birthday," and "The Seaside; or, Mrs. Roseleaf Out of Town." ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street. Unreserved Seats, 1s., 2s.; Stalls, 3s. and 5s.

WINTER EXHIBITION, 120, Pall Mall.

—The TWELFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES by LIVING BRITISH ARTISTS is NOW OPEN from 9.30 to 5 p.m. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

HOLMAN HUNT'S PICTURES.

"London Bridge on the Night of the Marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales," and "The Afterglow in Egypt," together with Robert B. Martineau's Picture, "The Last Day in the Old Home" are now ON VIEW, at the NEW GALLERY, 16, Hanover Street, Regent Street, from Nine in the Morning till Ten at Night. Admission during the day from Nine till Seven, One Shilling; and in the evening from Seven till Ten, Sixpence.

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By order. W. C. WINTERBOTTOM, Secretary.

London, Dec. 3rd, 1864.

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Per dozen.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
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Table Forks	31	0	38	0
Dessert Forks	23	0	29	0
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1. The same initial velocity of the projectile can be obtained by a charge of Gun Cotton one-fourth of the weight of gunpowder.
2. No smoke from the explosion.
3. Does not foul the gun.
4. Does not heat the gun to the injurious degree of gunpowder.
5. The same velocity to the projectile with much smaller recoil of the gun.
6. Will produce the same initial velocity of projectile with a shorter length of barrel.
7. In projectiles of the nature of explosive shells, Gun Cotton has the advantage of breaking the shell more equally into much more numerous pieces than gunpowder.
8. When used in shells instead of gunpowder, one-third of the weight of the latter produces double the explosive force.

FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND MINING.

9. A charge of Gun Cotton of given size exerts double the explosive force of gunpowder.
10. It may be so used, as, in its explosion, to reduce the rock to much smaller pieces than gunpowder, and so facilitate its removal.
11. Producing no smoke, the work can proceed much more rapidly, and with less injury to health.
12. In working coal mines, bringing down much larger quantities with a given charge, and absence of smoke, enable a much greater quantity of work to be done in a given time at a given cost.
13. The weight of Gun Cotton required to produce a given effect in mining is only one-sixth part of the weight of gunpowder.
14. In blasting rock under water the wider range and greater force of a given charge cheapens considerably the cost of submarine work.
15. The peculiar local action of Gun Cotton enables the engineer to destroy and remove submarine stones and rocks without the preliminary delay and expense of boring chambers for the charge.

FOR MILITARY ENGINEERING.

16. The weight of Gun Cotton is only one-sixth that of gunpowder.
17. Its peculiar localized action enables the engineer to destroy bridges and paliades, and to remove every kind of obstacle with great facility.
18. For submarine explosion, either in attack or defence, it has the advantage of a much wider range of destructive power than gunpowder.
19. For the same purpose. From its lightness it has the advantage of keeping afloat the water-tight case in which it is contained, while gunpowder sinks it to the bottom.

FOR NAVAL WARFARE.

20. Where guns are close together, as in the batteries of ships and case-mated forts, the absence of smoke removes the great evil, of the firing of one gun impeding the aim of the next, and thus Gun Cotton facilitates rapid firing.
21. Between decks, also, the absence of smoke allows continuous rapid firing to be maintained. The absence of fouling and of heating is equally advantageous for naval as for military artillery.

GENERAL ADVANTAGES.

22. Time, damp, and exposure do not alter the qualities of the patent Gun Cotton.
23. It can be transported through fire without danger, simply by being wetted, and when dried in the open air it becomes as good as before.
24. It is much safer than gunpowder, owing to its being manufactured in the shape of rope or yarn.
25. The patent Gun Cotton has the peculiarity of being entirely free from the danger of spontaneous combustion, and is constant and unalterable in its nature.

MESSRS. THOMAS, PRENTICE, & Co. are now in a position to contract with the owners of mines, engineers, contractors, and Governments, for Gun Cotton prepared in the various forms required for their use. Mining charges will be supplied in the rope form according to the diameter of bore required, and Gun Cotton match-line will be supplied with it. Instructions as to the method of using it in mines will also be supplied.

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Stowmarket, March 10, 1864.

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" to Oil Creek in Pennsylvania	35 "
" to Coal Regions in Ohio (New Lisbon)	20 "
" to Cleveland	67 "
Total	532 Miles.

Also the ERIE AND NIAGARA RAILWAY, belonging to same system, 30 miles in length, is wholly in Canada, and secures an enormous Coal Traffic over 200 miles of the ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN, by whom it has been constructed and is now chiefly owned.

The route of this Great Railway, connecting New York with St. Louis, a distance of 1200 miles (without change of carriages or break of gauge), passes through Free States, far removed from the scene of war. The Line is now completed, and in possession of a Traffic which may fairly be called extraordinary. For September last the gross earnings on 322 miles open were, at ordinary exchange, at the rate of £1,100,000 per annum (exclusive of the bonus of 10 per cent. paid by the ERIE RAILWAY on all Through Traffic, which will probably reach £100,000 per annum additional), the earnings having increased since the commencement of the year by 100 per cent. This, even at the present exchange, would leave a large surplus after payment of the interest in gold on the Bonded Debt. The power to increase the fares will, of course, be exercised, if the present exceptional rates of exchange should continue.

The total Bonded Debt over the whole system of the ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY is £3,600,110, and, with the exception of proceeds of Bonds £1,755,070, held by the public, the Line has been constructed with funds advanced by capitalists, whose anticipations of profitable results have been far more than realized; the Railway, although only partially developed, exhibiting returns of Traffic and Revenue which may, without exaggeration, be designated unexampled.

When this undertaking was projected it was found necessary to obtain powers for its construction from each State through which it would pass. This compelled independent organizations and separate financial arrangements, the inconvenience attending which has become so manifest that it is determined to consolidate the whole Line under one administration. Pending the completion of Legislative enactments, it has been resolved to issue sterling Certificates of Debenture, payable in three years, bearing interest at 8 per cent. per annum, which interest is guaranteed by the CONSOLIDATED BANK, and the principal secured by a Deposit with the Trustees of Bonds and Shares amounting at usual exchange to £4,230,493.

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The ERIE RAILWAY, of which the ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN is practically an extension, upon a mileage of about the same extent, but constructed at a cost nearly three times as great, has earned in the present year sufficient not only to pay interest on all its Bonded Debt, but also a dividend of 10 per cent. on Ordinary Stock. The ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, in addition to its Through Traffic in common with the ERIE, has almost a monopoly of the Petroleum Traffic in Pennsylvania, with vast Coalfields, and other important sources of local revenue. The cost of its construction having been so much less, and its Mortgage Debt consequently so much smaller, with an assured traffic at least equal, it is estimated that in the three years, during which the Certificates of Debenture run, the payment of the principal will be provided for out of Revenue alone.

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17 " April 17, "
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90

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I hereby request that you will allot me £

I am, your obedient Servant,

Signature
Address in full
Date

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Dear Sirs,—You are aware that, at the request of the Capitalists furnishing the funds for the construction of the ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, my firm undertook the grave responsibility of the supervision of the Works of the Line to be executed under a contract with Mr. McHENRY, and from the plans and designs of Mr. THOMAS W. KENNARD, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Railway.

Before the Works were commenced my Firm sent one of its most experienced Agents, who had superintended the execution of several large Works, and who had been in its employ upwards of thirty years, and entrusted to his charge the supervision of the various Works to be executed on the Railway.

It is due both to Mr. KENNARD, the Engineer-in-Chief, and to Mr. McHENRY, the Contractor, that I should state to you that the position we occupied, which might have been an invidious one, has not in the slightest degree partaken of that character. Every recommendation of our agent has been at once cheerfully carried out, and Mr. McHENRY has executed his contract with an honest desire to carry out every engagement in a fair and liberal spirit. The Line has been ballasted and laid in a style fully equal to the best of our English Railways, while the extremely favourable nature of the country through which it passes has rendered necessary so few works of art that its maintenance need not exceed the average cost per mile of our Railways at home. The Stations throughout are of ample extent, and the Siding Accommodation fully equal to the requirements of the traffic.

It must be very satisfactory to you to find that the Engineer-in-Chief states in his last report that the traffic at the present time is sufficient to pay, at the then price of gold, the Dividend on all the Consolidated Bonds of the entire Line, assuming them not to be issued to a greater extent than £6500 stg. (six thousand five hundred pounds sterling) per lineal mile. Estimates and predictions are so often falsified, that this fact becomes peculiarly valuable, the more so as at the present time the Rolling Stock is not more than equal to the requirements of the local traffic; and when the Rolling Stock to be provided under the Agreement with the ERIE COMPANY is placed on the Line, these increased facilities cannot fail to produce an amount of traffic far exceeding the estimates which have been prepared in regard to it.

I am, dear Sirs, for Betts and Self, yours faithfully,

S. MORTON PETO.

INCREASE IN THE CARRIAGE OF PRODUCE FROM WEST TO EAST DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, DERIVED FROM OFFICIAL RETURNS.

CHICAGO.			
	Total Grain.	Fat Cattle.	Pigs.
1859	16,754,138 bushels.	32,500	110,247
1860	31,108,759 "	32,000	227,164
1861	50,481,867 "	115,000	289,064
1862	56,487,110 "	107,906	491,135
1863	54,741,639 "	197,341	862,200
MILWAUKEE.			
	Total Grain.	Pork, Beef, Lard, and Tallow.	
1859	6,550,896 bushels.	10,206,400 lbs.	
1860	9,935,000 "	11,068,000 "	
1861	16,710,580 "	14,682,103 "	
1862	18,732,389 "	30,553,668 "	
1863	16,992,335 "	41,009,553 "	
TOLEDO.			
	Flour.	Wheat.	Cattle, Pigs, and Sheep.
1860	803,700 barrels	5,033,335 bushels.	209,608
1861	1,372,111 "	6,286,936 "	281,495
1862	1,585,325 "	9,827,629 "	481,804
BUFFALO.			
	Total Grain.	Cattle, Pigs, and Sheep.	
1860	37,089,461 bushels.	14,040,303 lbs.	
1861	61,460,601 "	25,000,823 "	
1862	72,872,454 "	107,129,461 "	
1863	64,735,570 "	149,428,894 "	

As respects Petroleum, in the carriage of which this Railway has practically the monopoly:—

Petroleum produced in 1859	750 bbls. of 40 gallons.
" " 1860	50,000 "
" " 1861	550,000 "
" " 1862	2,000,000 "
" " 1863	2,200,000 "

The Cleveland Branch of the ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY is engaged to the full extent of its capacity in the carriage of Iron, the Ore from the Mines of Lake Superior, and in shipping Coals in return vessels. These mines produced in

1859	Iron Ore.	Copper.
1860	65,679 tons	6,041 tons.
1863	280,000 "	10,000 "

TRADE OF CINCINNATI.—Some idea of the enormous growth of trade at the West may be formed from the following statement of the value of the Imports and Exports of leading staples at Cincinnati:—

	Dollars.		Dollars.
1858-59	100,230,954	1861-62	179,733,695
1859-60	180,384,404	1862-63	246,517,384
1860-61	147,226,202	1863-64	578,870,362

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LAW-REPORTS.

THE movement which is now going on with reference to a new system of Law-reporting is one of more than merely professional interest. In order to explain the merits or demerits of the scheme which received a qualified sanction from the bar on Monday last, it will be as well to say something first of the present position of Law-reporting. Two classes of reports are now provided for the public. In the columns of the daily newspapers there appear very copious, and, as a rule, very fairly accurate, reports of the most prominent cases tried in the London law-courts. It is not very often that a trial of any great legal interest takes place out of the metropolis; and, in these exceptional cases, original reports are generally supplied to the metropolitan press. In many instances the reporters are barristers who eke out an insufficient practice by supplying full particulars of the evidence and counsels' speeches, as well as of the judge's summing-up. It is obvious, however, that these reports can never form a complete record of our legal annals. Newspapers naturally and properly consult the taste of their readers as to the class of cases to which they devote much space; and, as Englishmen happily have not the passion for law ascribed to the peasants of Normandy, cases involving technical legal points have little attraction for the general public. Moreover, the exigencies of space and of more pressing subjects render even the law-reports of the *Times*—by far the best which have ever appeared in a non-professional paper—quite inadequate for legal purposes. In consequence, a variety of law-reports are published periodically, which circulate almost exclusively amongst barristers and solicitors. These publications are purely commercial speculations—some of them, we believe, very successful ones. As a rule, it might be supposed that the ordinary laws of supply and demand could be safely left to regulate the production of these records. As there is an undoubted demand for clear, precise, and trustworthy reports of all legal cases presenting any important and novel feature, we should say beforehand that it would certainly be found worth somebody's while to supply the article in question. We are by no means sure that this is not the case, but a large section of our

legal authorities hold a different opinion. Whether justly or not, great discontent is felt at the absence of any official or recognised record of our law-courts, and a scheme has been set on foot to supply this want. Into the technical advantages of this project it is hardly within our sphere to enter; but we incline to doubt its superiority to our present system. A series of reports are to be published in future, that is, if this plan should be carried out, by competent reporters, priority being given, in the selection of these reporters, to those gentlemen who have already performed similar duties with success. The expense of publishing these reports is to be borne by a voluntary subscription from members of the legal profession, subsidized, if necessary, as far as we can understand, by a grant from Government. Moreover, a special advantage is to be given to these reports by the fact that they are to be recognised by our judges as the official records of their proceedings.

We question very much whether such a plan could work successfully. Either the labour of the reporters must be paid beyond their present, that is, their market value, or else there is no reason why their work should be more efficiently or more promptly performed than it is under the existing system. If a factitious price is paid, a number of lucrative appointments will be created; and the public will distrust the expediency of providing salaries for a host of briefless barristers. If the plan is to succeed, it must be by the possession of a real, if not a nominal monopoly; and all experience has shown that a monopoly, sooner or later, degenerates into a job. In fact, the scheme proposes too much or too little. If it is advisable to have an official record, the work should be performed wholly at public expense, and under the sole superintendence of the public. If not, the publication of legal annals had better be left to the ordinary laws of trade. A reform of some kind is doubtless needed. Our law is governed by precedents, and the decision in any given case is materially influenced by the accumulated weight of a variety of judgments on similar subjects. Taking these conditions for granted, it is most desirable there should exist some formal record of what the decisions are on which precedents are formed. To a great extent this want would be supplied if our judges, according to a proposal which has found much favour with the bar, were compelled to reduce their judgments to writing instead of leaving them to be reported haphazard. The non-professional public, however, entertains grave doubts of the wisdom of allowing law to be decided at all by a series of constantly accumulating precedents. If the reform, which Lord Westbury is supposed to have at heart, should be passed, and a legal code framed, the necessity of referring to decisions given before the enactment of the code would be done away with. And therefore we, in common with all who have been or may be sufferers by the confusion of our law, look with jealousy on every plan to mitigate an evil which can only be radically cured by the system of codification.

Meanwhile, the consideration of this topic has called public attention to a point only incidentally connected with it. We allude to the supposed necessity of some supervision over the character of the law-reports published in our newspapers. There is no doubt that every report published for professional use should be as full and precise as possible, and that no statement whatever bearing on the merits of the case should be omitted except in as far as the exigencies of space render omission inevitable. It is not, however, equally clear that the general public gains by a full narrative of the details of scandalous cases. There is a good deal to be said on both sides of the question, and the extent of the evil is certainly exaggerated. Any one who has been at all in the habit of attending law-courts must be aware that a vast amount of detail of a disgraceful character is omitted from the newspaper reports. A variety of cases are never reported at all,

and even the fullest records of certain trials are always expurgated editions of the truth. This reticence is due perhaps rather to the taste of the public than the delicacy of newspaper proprietors. If there was a demand for verbal narratives of every dirty case that comes before our courts, some paper or other would be found unprincipled enough to supply the want. Happily the great public has no love for simple filth. The insertion of detailed narratives of cases of low and obscure debauchery has invariably been found to injure the commercial value of the paper which filled its columns with such matter. It is only when the case involves the reputation of persons of position or repute, or possesses some incidental peculiarity of a striking character, that the public has any wish to know everything that can be known. In such cases the public want is amply satisfied. The most depraved taste could scarcely want fuller reports than were given of the Codrington divorce, or of cases of a similar kind. In this respect one paper is no better or no worse than another. The fault—if fault there is—rests equally upon high-priced and low-priced journals.

Unless a restrictive system is to be introduced, no remedy can be suggested for this state of things; and, in many instances, the system operates most injuriously on the interests both of individuals and the public. A witness in a scandalous suit is virtually pilloried. It is the duty of the opposing counsel to damage the weight of his testimony; and, in consequence, any circumstance, either in his past life or his connexion with the case, is sedulously raked up and brought to light. All the facts elicited, or even the surmises suggested, are circulated by the newspapers throughout the whole circle of his acquaintance; and a man must be singularly fortunate or singularly innocent to come out of the witness-box, on such a case as we have hinted at, without some damage being done to his reputation. People will say that a man has no business to be mixed up at all with any case of a scandalous description; but this sort of wisdom is more easily preached than practised; and there can be no question but that much important evidence is lost to justice simply because witnesses are afraid of having their evidence published to all the world through the columns of the press. Again, the influence produced by reading this class of cases on young and inexperienced persons can scarcely be regarded as salutary. It is not probable, indeed, that breaches of the Seventh Commandment will forthwith increase in number in consequence of the widespread perusal of the Codrington divorce-case; but it may fairly be urged that the moral tone and purity of the public mind are not exalted by a detailed account of the miserable quarrels and recriminations of the Admiral and his wife.

On the other hand, there is a good deal to be urged in favour of publicity. The fear of exposure acts with special power on the class whose misdoings ordinarily give rise to what are called scandalous trials. There are plenty of men, and women too, who are very little affected by moral considerations, but who have the utmost dread of having their names brought before the public. The higher you ascend the social scale, the greater is the indirect penalty attached to the publicity caused by an uncensored reportership. The greater, therefore, are the inducements to avoid any offence which may drag you into a law-court. Bill Sykes would care extremely little about the account of his relations with Nancy being published in papers that neither he nor his friends read or could read. But the Marquis of Steyne would feel that the dread of having the story of his relations with women, matrimonial or otherwise, hawked about the streets was a motive for avoiding any excess in wickedness. It must be remembered, also, that the system of publicity has two sides to it. If a witness really goes before the court with perfectly clean hands, he obtains a guarantee for his respectability, such as he could not hope for under any other system. His

acquaintance know that the worst that could be said, or supposed, or suggested about him, has been carefully reported to them, and that nothing remains in the background. If, on the contrary, any sort of censorship was exercised over the reports, there would always exist a reasonable doubt whether the worst was fully known, and whether something might not have been elicited in court which had not been reported in the papers. In fact, if once there was a censorship, the suspicion of favouritism would spring up; and, in a community like our own, where social influences are very powerful, it would be hard to say that such a suspicion might not be justified. On the whole, then, we believe a system of unlicensed and unsubsidized reporting is the best for the public. We must take the wheat with the tares, and the many advantages of a free press must be laid against the scandals caused by unnecessary exposures of domestic misery.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE Gnostics.

The Gnostics and their Remains, Ancient and Mediæval. By C. W. King, M.A. (Bell and Daldy.)

THE name Gnostic has been used with vagueness both in ancient and modern times. It was applied generally to a variety of religionists who, in the first ages of Christianity, endeavoured to bend the doctrines and traditions of the new religion to their own philosophical views. The word "gnosis," or science, had been introduced, it is said, by Pythagoras, who is reported to have termed the transcendental portion of his doctrine *γνῶσις τῶν ὀντων*, the knowledge of essences. At a later period the Oriental schemes for explaining the origin and constitution of the universe were designated simply *γνῶσις*, a term corresponding to our word science, with this immense difference, that we mean by science the knowledge of the creation derived from observation and induction, while the gnosis meant knowledge based on the arbitrary and visionary explanations of certain ancient teachers. There seems to have been several such schemes in vogue—one, for instance, of Egyptian origin, another of Persian, and another of Indian. The propagators of these speculative views in the Roman world, witnessing the phenomena of the rising Christianity which was ever gaining strength and importance around them, endeavoured to find a niche in their systems for the highly concrete doctrine of the Jewish Messiah. They reduced the venerated personalities of the Jewish and Christian religions to subordinate beings in their comprehensive hierarchies. From the Christian point of view this procedure was heresy—a perversion of Christian doctrines by unworthy disciples, who, having received a Divine revelation, now endeavoured to modify it according to their own ambitious fancies. Modern divines like Beausobre and Walsh have treated the Gnostics in a similar way—that is, as Christian heretics—and upon this view no intelligible explanation of their ideas was possible. The so-called Gnostic systems must be treated as independent schemes of religion and philosophy prior to and apart from Christianity, and their origin must be sought in the old religions of Egypt, Persia, and India. The true relation of Christianity to these so-called heresies will then become apparent. The apostolic and earlier Christian writers retorted upon the religionists of the day the treatment to which these endeavoured to subject Christianity. They sought to make it appear that the Messianic history was the reality, to which the visionary schemes of the followers of Zoroaster, Plato, and Buddha, were subordinate. In doing this they adopted much of the terminology of the several schools; and the affair ended in popular or patristic Christianity becoming a compound of the plain and intelligible doctrine of a universal Jewish

monarchy with the philosophical and hierarchical systems of Egypt, India, Persia, and Greece.

The excellent treatise of the learned Frenchman Matter ("Histoire Critique du Gnosticisme"), published a quarter of a century ago, first treated the subject in a luminous manner; but the progress of philological and antiquarian research has since afforded the means of obtaining far more extensive and accurate information upon many points than was then possible. Mr. King has taken, as the foundation of his work, the materials collected by M. Matter, but dissents from that learned writer in certain of his conclusions. The plan proposed by Mr. King was, he tells us, first to review the grand religious systems of the East flourishing at the time of the establishment of Christianity in those regions, and their necessary influence on the modes of thought and expression both of its missionaries and of its first converts; next, by the testimony of the apostle to the Gentiles himself, to establish the existence of all the germs of the gnosis in those cities which were the scenes of his most important labours. This admirable design is, we regret to say, but very imperfectly carried out, and Mr. King's work is little more than a collection of materials for such a treatise as that which he contemplated, and which, he tells us, unfortunate circumstances have prevented him from executing according to his intention.

Mr. King considers that M. Matter is in error in representing the systems of the various heresiarchs of the first centuries as novel developments of ideas borrowed from the Persian Zend-avesta and the Jewish Cabala. He maintains that the doctrines of Valentinus, the most notable Gnostic heresiarch, were but Buddhism, and that, in the history of the first four centuries of the Church, everything that was denounced as heretical may be traced up to Indian speculative philosophy as its genuine fountain-head.

Next in importance to India as a source of Gnostic opinion Mr. King places Egypt, which, locally, was unquestionably the region where these ideas found their chief nidus. The Persian or Mithraic element comes next.

Valuable as are the materials which Mr. King has brought together, much remains to be done before the subject can be considered as properly elucidated. The Egyptian religion, which entered much more largely into the Gnostic system than Mr. King seems to suppose, is here only superficially treated; and the section on Egyptian deities is one of the most unsatisfactory in the whole book.

Mr. King devotes a considerable space to the Abraxas gems or talismans, of which he gives a number of valuable drawings; and, in fact, we suspect that the possession of an unusually rich cabinet of these curiosities has been the main cause of the production before us. In the explication of the symbolic figures of the Gnostics and of the legends which accompany them Mr. King does not throw any additional light, and the whole of this subject deserves and requires fresh investigation. A German scholar—Bellermand—many years ago attempted the interpretation of several of the most common legends, which he explained partly from the Coptic, partly from the Hebrew or Syriac. Few of these explanations appear to us at all probable. The interpretation of the word "Abraxas" is an example of superficial etymology. Bellermand explains this from the Coptic *Ab* or *Af*, let it be, *Rak*, adore, and *Sar* for *sadshi*, name. Now *Rak* does not mean "to adore," and *sadshi* does not mean "name;" and, besides this, the real word of which the etymology was to be sought is not "Abraxas," but "Abrasax." It is so spelt on every gem that we have ever seen and in ancient manuscripts, and how the spelling "Abraxas" got vogue is not very clear. It ought, at any rate, now to be banished out of any scientific treatise upon this subject; and to found an etymology upon a well-known misspelling is absurd in the highest degree, even if the derivation were not defective on

other grounds. The old remark that the letters of the word "Abraxas" make up, according to the numeral values affixed to them by the Greeks, the number 365, is more likely to point at the true origin of this mystic name. It may be merely an Alexandrian—that is, Greek—invention after all. It is found, indeed, in Egyptian papyri of late date hieroglyphically written; but this is hardly enough to prove that the word is of Egyptian origin. It must be admitted, however, that, if it be merely a numerical combination of letters of the Greek alphabet, it loses its significance entirely when written in the Egyptian characters. On the whole, we consider the derivation and meaning of this mystical word to be completely unknown. The names of the Æons of Valentinus are said to be Syriac. Mr. King gives a list of them, taken from Epiphanius. The spelling is very corrupt, and it is difficult to recognise the words for which they are meant; nor does Mr. King afford us any assistance. The Gnostic baptismal formula given by Irenæus is corrupted in a similar way. A little trouble would have reduced these formulas into intelligible Hebrew. Many of the common words on the gems are systematically misread by Mr. King—as, for instance, the formula *Ablanathanalba*, which reads backwards and forwards the same, but which Mr. King always metamorphoses into *Ablanathanabla*—thus destroying the symmetrical arrangement of the letters. Bellermand has explained this from the Hebrew *Ab lanu atha*, thou art our father; and we have the authority of a magical papyrus preserved in the British Museum for the word being a Hebrew one. The word *Baḥxawx*, which very frequently occurs, and which, from a passage in the Pistis Sophia, appears to be the name given in the Ophite theology to the genius of the planet Mercury, is written defectively *Baḥxw* by Mr. King, who adopts Bellermand's explanation from the Coptic. According to this the word means a secret prize, and denotes a symbol given to the neophyte upon his admission into the fraternity. This is quite wide of the mark. Whatever be its derivation, there can be no doubt that it is a proper name of an Æon or spiritual power. Alexander Trallianus gives a charm for the cure of the gout in which this power is invoked. A critical list of the legends and magical names occurring on the Gnostic gems, expurgated from false readings, is still a desideratum, and is indispensable before any sound conclusion can be drawn as to their derivations. The Pistis Sophia throws some light upon several of the names of spiritual powers, and, as almost the only existing original work belonging to the Gnostic systems, ought to have been consulted.

Gnosticism of some kind or other has always survived, and lives even to the present time. Freemasonry, though not exactly the lineal descendant of any Gnostic sect, has yet borrowed many of the ideas and symbols of these ancient religionists. "At first sight," says Mr. King, "it is altogether startling to recognise so many Gnostic and primitively Indian symbols, retaining apparently their original sense, amongst the insignia and illustrated formulæ of our Freemasons; and in itself it gives a colour to their claims to the most venerable antiquity. But the pleasing illusion vanishes when we investigate the mode of their descent; and the order, though claiming them as its legitimate inheritance, turns out at the last a mere daw in borrowed plumes." Mr. King adopts the view, for which we know no earlier voucher than Lessing, that Sir Christopher Wren was the real founder of modern Freemasonry, and that the name of masons assumed by this secret society rests upon the accidental circumstance of their first meetings being held in the common hall of the London guild of Freemasons, to which body Wren belonged. The real object of the society was political—the restoration of the monarchy, whence the secrecy enjoined on the members. The pretence of promoting architecture, and the choice of the place where to hold their meetings, suggested by the profession of

their president, were no more than blinds to deceive the government. Into this society some devotees of the old Rosicrucian doctrines and students of the mystical lore of alchemy and astrology crept; and their doctrines, which had really descended from antiquity, were adopted by the Freemasons, and received a new life.

"The best supported history of the rise of Rosicrucianism," says Mr. King, "points out for its founder a Lutheran mystic divine, J. V. Andreæ, Almoner to the Duke of Würtemberg, early in the seventeenth century. His writings, wherein the Rosy Cross prominently figures, were beyond all doubt the first indications making known the existence of the society to the general public. But he appears to have merely borrowed the symbols and occult means of communication existing already from time immemorial amongst the antique community of alchemists and astrologers (or, in other words, all the philosophers and magnates of his day) in order to direct them towards a visionary scheme of his own—the union of all Christian sects in one universal brotherhood—and so commenced his apostleship by attempting the conversion of the most eminent of the mass. The well-meaning enthusiast had disregarded the observation of the sagacious Julian, recorded by Ammian, and confirmed by the experience of every succeeding century (ours as much as any), 'Nullas infestas hominibus bestias ut sunt sibi feras plerique Christianorum expertus.' Naturally enough, his scheme of universal brotherhood dissolved in air as soon as established; but the older philosophy bloomed with renewed vigour under the fresh organization and euphonious name."

The Rosy Cross adopted by Pastor Andreæ as the symbol of his new order was the well-known badge of the ancient Knights Templars, whose order had been suppressed in 1307 on account of charges of heathenish belief and practices which have a strong affinity with those of the Oriental Gnostics. Now, considering the immense influence that this order had once had throughout Europe, it is probable enough that many of their ideas survived long after the dissolution of the body. On the whole, there is nothing improbable in the view that the old Gnostic traditions preserved in the East should have been imbibed by the Templars during the Crusades; that, after their suppression, their doctrines should have been secretly cherished by isolated devotees; that, on the promulgation of the Rosicrucian scheme, the depositaries of the old ideas should have flocked to the new society, which, after a brief career of existence, itself became merged in a London club, founded for a political purpose, but which has continued to hold together long after that purpose has disappeared.

The reader will find in Mr. King's book an abundant collection of interesting and valuable materials, and, putting etymology apart, we believe his views to be generally sound. The grand problem, the exact influence of Buddhism upon the Western religions, is, after all, left very insufficiently explained, and the derivation of the names of ancient Egyptian deities, such as Isis, from Indian roots, requires to be supported by some stronger argument than the mere resemblance of sound. We will not positively affirm that "Isa," a name occurring in Indian mythology, cannot be the source of the name Isis; but, if it be, we must attribute to that mythology an antiquity far beyond that for which any evidence at present exists.

MR. FOSS'S "JUDGES OF ENGLAND."

The Judges of England, with Sketches of their Lives from the Conquest to the Present Time.
By Ed. Foss, F.S.A. (Murray.)

THAT a nation so submissive to law and so proud of its submission as our own should feel so slightly interested in the personal history of its professional legislators is singular enough. It may be that no romance is supposed to attach to the career of a successful legist. The study of law is traditionally believed to be dry and hard, and the phrase "steeped in precedents" may mean a desiccating process after all. Or the occult and perplexing character of the science may be a hindrance to popularity. Or, as a

third reason, it may be urged that great lawyers and judges are made by a species of reducing process (an hypothesis which seems even a point of cardinal belief with Mr. Foss), by the elimination of stray and errant tastes and sympathies, till humanity in them assumes a sort of even pulpsiness and smoothness, all elements of angularity or character save law having been ground away. As advocates many judges in our own day have been blessed with considerable popularity. But, once ticketed and labelled on the judicial shelf, they have become mummies. They are no longer interesting except to antiquarians. All human interest has fled. When they have girt on their official robes they have divested themselves of the passions, the calamities, the sympathies of men, have removed from the arena of worldly strife, and the world has no further concern with them or their affairs.

It is with something like this feeling we turn over the nine volumes completing the work which Mr. Foss, after so laborious a term of years, has brought to a conclusion. Here are the judges on their shelves, all duly classified and in order, the puisnes and the chiefs, all in their degrees. They were not, nor are they now, in spite of the uniform theory, at all of one pattern. The fiery Erskine, eloquent, erratic, impassioned, stirred by an ardour that would have shattered the imperfectly-fused fabric of meaner men, the just, the wise, the sincere Holt, who first declared that no slave could live in England—a dogma which the world, with its usual fairness, has attributed, in less exact language, to Mansfield—swathed as much as they may be in judicial swathing-clothes, cannot be made to look alike; nor can Murray, born in the purple, be brought to the same aspect as Jack Scott, the Newcastle hostman's son, who ran away with Bessy Surtees, and who was afterwards known as Lord Eldon. Happily there are judges and judges, Holts and Parkers, Hales and Thurlows, Macclesfields and Kings; and, if the world affects to despise mere puisnes, the lesser lights of the firmament of law, the mere herd of talent, it cannot afford to forget that the lives of the chief-justices and chancellors offer often the most curious illustrations of industry and ability, the widest contrasts of poverty and triumph, of splendid gifts and limited advantages, and of differences of character, which, however much subordinated to routine, have exercised the widest possible influences on the commonwealth, and which, if deprived of romance, of point and antithesis, and of that light and shade which is deemed so essential to an attractive popularity, have yet sufficed to distinguish them greatly in a much-beaten track, and enabled them to climb successfully in a path where the gradations are ascertained, the mode, even the rate of progress all but prescribed, and to an altitude above the heads of their fellow-men.

Those who turn, however, to the pages of Mr. Foss for any picturesque or inflammable narrative of the lives of eminent judges will be disappointed. He merely offers us a judicial summary of the lives of the judges from the earliest establishment of law, so far as they are accessible or attainable, down to the present time. In this history, necessarily condensed, he has presented many biographies that the world should not willingly let die. But his work is necessarily one rather of reference than for mere perusal. Aiming at accuracy, it may be at once conceded that he has generally achieved it. With the exception of one or two such slight inaccuracies as that of making Coke recorder of Coventry in 1585, and some merely accidental errors in dates, the entire series may be recorded as by far the most accurate lives of the judges that have yet appeared. In a work of this kind accuracy is of course the Alpha and Omega. It must be accurate or it is nothing. The extent of time comprehended in the nine volumes, including a period of nearly eight hundred years, with all the successive generations of judges, justiciars, keepers, chancellors, and legal dignitaries during that period,

forbids any attempt at fulness of detail or biographical interest. There can be no picturesque or imaginative scenes like those which are assigned to the career of some of the judges in the narrative of our most popular historian. The extent of ground covered forbids any loitering by the way. But the facts recorded are valuable, even essential to the honour and dignity of the profession the subjects of these memoirs once adorned, as are, indeed, all records which enable the curious or discriminative law-student to ascertain the character, fortunes, and lives of the authors of such varying and conflicting decisions as appear in the law-books, or which may inform the constitutional historian how much the philosophy of the legal changes which have been inaugurated, or the reformations which have been effected, have followed on the character of the judges, and how large a part they have played in the amelioration of jurisprudence in this country.

Mr. Foss's three last volumes bring down the history of the judges from 1660 to the present time. They comprehend a little more than the entire period of judicial independence—that is, of *de jure* as well as *de facto* independence. During nearly the whole of this period the patents of judges have run *quam diu se bene gesserint*, instead of *durante bene placito*—a trifling distinction, as it may seem, but one of the widest significance as traced in the careers of venal or timorous judges, of Jeffreys and of Scroggs, and making the judges practically irremovable, as being punishable only for such misconduct as happily is unknown in England. These volumes necessarily include the biographies of Somers and Holt, of James Montague, Earl of Macclesfield, of Erskine and Eldon, Stowell and Talfourd, as well as those of the various judges whose names are less distinguished in the annals of their country, and of those now living, who may yet be not less honoured by posterity. In this last respect, perhaps, his labours would have been more satisfactory had they been less complete. It would doubtless have been wiser to have left the fame of later judges, of many of whom voluminous biographies exist, to the mercy of their biographers. Mr. Foss has shown his fitness for his task by his conscientious diligence and laborious and scholarly research, and it is unwise in him to tempt comparison with newspaper notices and encyclopædia biographies of recent or living men.

With superior accuracy to Lord Campbell, it must be confessed, however, that Mr. Foss falls much short of the late chancellor in his narrative of the various legal decisions of the judges. Greater brevity may palliate, but it cannot altogether excuse such an omission. It is hardly fair to furnish biographies of eminent judicial authorities without recording at least some of those famous decisions and judgments which have made their names eminent and on which their fame rests. It seems almost culpable to have omitted, in the life of Holt, reference to his decision in Smith and Brown, in Coggs and Bernard, in Ashby and White, and not to have alluded to those decisions of Lords Hardwicke, Thurlow, and Eldon on which rest the chief structure of modern equity. It may be that, speaking for and to lawyers, such a reference may have been considered unnecessary; but assuredly these decisions are the monuments of the judges, to which their lives are but as the epitaphs, especially as the author has occasionally offered such wise anecdotes and references as serve to illustrate the character and temper of mind of the different personages whose lives are recorded.

Here, for instance, is one which elucidates the value of a judge's decision of mind in restraining lawlessness and bloodshed, and in vindicating the authority of law; and which, if less amusing than some of the anecdotes offered of the different judges, is of more value in expressing the character of the judge of whom it is affirmed:—

A mob having assembled with the intention of pulling down a house in Holborn where persons

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were supposed to be kidnapped and then sent to the Colonies, the guards were called out. The chief justice (Holt) being applied to, asked the officer what he would do if the populace did not disperse. "Fire on them," said the officer, "as we have orders." "Have you so?" replied the judge; "then take notice that, if one man is killed, and you are tried before me, I will take care that every soldier of your party is hanged."

Again, of the same judge we are told:—

In a trial of an old woman for witchcraft the witness against her declared that she used a "spell." "Let me see it," said the judge. A scrap of parchment being handed up to him, he asked the old woman how she came by it; and, on her answering, "A young gentleman, my lord, gave it me to cure my daughter's ague," he inquired whether it cured her. "Oh yes! my lord; and many others," replied the old woman. He then turned to the jury, and said, "Gentlemen, when I was young and thoughtless, and out of money, I, and some companions as unthinking as myself, went to this woman's house—then a public one—and, having no money to pay our reckoning, I hit upon a stratagem to get off scot-free. Seeing her daughter ill of an ague, I pretended I had a spell to cure her. I wrote the classic line you see, and gave it her; so that, if any is punishable, it is I, and not the poor woman."

The accuracy of the moral that the evil that men do lives after them is seen in this story, though it bears with it its antidote; but it has been in like manner that the crimes of Jeffreys and Scroggs, the bribery and venality of Bacon, the servility of Mr. Attorney Coke, the judgment in witchcraft of Hale, the iniquities of North and Jones, on the trial of College, have been handed down to us. The world is all but unconscious of the services some, at least, of the judges have performed; the good they did has been interred with their bones. It is, perhaps, even ignorant that, were all the charters and Acts of Parliament we boast swept away, and only such law as has been judge-created left, no integral part of our liberties would be thrown down, and all the substantial edifice of the British Constitution would remain. In truth, the influence of the judicial character has been silent; it is as with the forces of nature, the power exerted is often most potent when silently exerted. Their additions to the bulwarks of freedom and social independence have been gradual, made often at long intervals, and with exemplary caution; but the result has consisted in the construction of imperishable lines of circumvallation against arbitrary encroachment. The gradual enlargement and growth of the writ *atia et otia* to its present proportions as the writ of *habeas corpus*; the extension of the petition of liberties made to James into the Act of Settlement; the gradual and silent demolition of the feudal powers of the Crown; the modifications which have all but substituted a private personal remedy for State prosecution in the law of libel, and left our speech as free as is consistent with the individual right of each citizen; the general reconstruction which has been silently effected to suit an altered and modified aspect of things—these are among the changes which have been wrought by the judges, and which form the staple of social independence and conserve the integrity of citizenship. But it would need an extended history indeed to include a notice of such modifications; and, as a compendious and useful record of judicial existence and of legal biography, Mr. Foss's work may be gratefully accepted.

A RACE IN THREE VOLUMES.

Which is the Winner? or, the First Gentleman of his Family. By Charles Clarke, author of "Charlie Thornhill." Three Volumes. (Chapman and Hall.)

"WHICH IS THE WINNER" belongs to a literary family which has of late years sent forth some flourishing members. Who among the readers of latter-day novels does not know the story of county life, with the fine old English gentleman at the Hall—territorial, intolerant, and Tory; his high-

bred and high-spirited family; the good, but probably eccentric clergyman;—and, on the other side, the wretched manufacturing people who set up in the neighbourhood; the sordid father and vulgar mother; the younger branches, who, having been washed and educated, exhibit some redeeming points, even to the extent sometimes of justifying a *mésalliance*; the loathsome Dissenting minister, who, by the way, in more than one novel of late has been made the villain of the tale; and, it may be, some such monstrosity as a radical member of Parliament, who is usually found in the end to have murdered a child, or done something very wrong in the way of forgery?

The above is not a precise description of the present performance; but the materials are mostly here. It would be difficult to find a baronet more fine and old and English than Sir Michael Carrington—a genuine Cavalier of the past school, sitting for the county and standing for Church and State, and a gentleman even to the last delicate degree of not having too much money—a superfluity of that article being considered decidedly *mauvais ton* in some of the oldest families. The fact is that the Carringtons, like a great many other people, having scorned to take care of their resources for several generations, had brought them down to a considerably reduced figure, having, indeed, been obliged to part with a fine estate, which had fallen into the hands of an upstart neighbour—Mr. Bradfield. This presuming person, who had made an immense fortune out of iron, was not content with holding the estate which had passed away from its former owners, but had the insulting audacity to make it worth four times as much as when it came into his possession. All the money in the world, however—that is a great comfort to the Carringtons—cannot make him otherwise than an ill-mannered, ill-conditioned snob—a mere fool about horses, and almost as ignorant of books and pictures, though he collects the two latter, having early discovered the hobby to be a safer one than hunting, as a doubtful "rare edition," if unsaleable, at least does not eat its head off, and a spurious "old master" does not come down with its patron and break his neck. In deference to his acquired character of a country gentleman, Mr. Bradfield makes one concession—he pretends to shoot rabbits now and then, and, if he does not shoot himself or the game-keeper, considers himself a very creditable sportsman.

You could scarcely expect that two such dissimilar persons as we have described could keep up even a pretence of intimacy. They do nothing of the kind; but each has a son and daughter, and these younger people meet occasionally, and are even attracted towards one another by a certain sort of sympathy. There is no reason, indeed, as far as *personnel* is concerned, why they should not meet upon equal terms. Stafford Carrington is a fine, handsome, healthy, generous, and, like all the good people in the book, sportsmanlike fellow—well-bred to the tips of his fingers, but, though sufficiently accomplished, is lazy and unexcitable, and falls into negative views of life. His rival, Lawrence Bradfield, while a sufficiently sporting person for all practical purposes, gifted with a grand physique and fine manly qualities generally, is one of those men whose brains are uppermost in whatever they do. He has made better use of his time at college than Stafford, and has carefully cultured himself for an ambitious career. Whatever advantages he has over Stafford are accounted for by his position, not as a "son of labour," but most certainly as its grandson—the family energy not having had time to droop. But the difference between the two young ladies is of not so natural a character. Evelyn Carrington—a beautiful beaming girl, vivacious to any extent, and a thorough horsewoman—is yet of simple and homely tastes compared with Ellen Bradfield, the manufacturer's daughter; and, if you doubt the fact, hear the author.

He tells us that—

The beauty of the girl was so radiant, so commanding, yet of so delicate a character; the mixture of the conqueror and the captive was so subtly blended in her beautiful liquid eyes, whose usual expression was one of partial surprise, in her straightly-cut features, her short curled vermilion lip, the decision of a marked under-jaw, and the luxuriant richness of her wavy gold hair, that few men resisted the influence of her charms. Had she been like some women she would have lived in a halo of unpremeditated conquest. Her decision of manner, and total absence of coquetry, preserved her victims from self-immolation and herself from the slightest taint of calumny. In the society in which she moved (and great wealth commands a position in this country) it was felt that the manufacturer's daughter might well aspire to the highest honours.

The kind of girl she is may indeed be gathered from a very few words descriptive of the way in which she conducts a quarrel with her father, who has, in violation of both fact and feeling, called the object of her choice an "upstart beggar."

The morning sun streamed through the window and lighted up her cheek and glossy hair with its golden beams. Her heightened colour gave a pythoness-like grandeur to her stature, as she rose to her feet to confront the insolence that fell from her father's lips.

This is as it should be, though, of course, every young lady cannot manage to look like a pythoness when on bad terms with her papa. But, possessing this accomplishment, who can wonder that she makes conquests on all sides? She makes more, indeed, than we care to particularize; but we may mention the young curate Scarsdale, a first-rate fellow, but who never told his love because he knew it would not be of the smallest use to do so; and Lord Mentmore, who did tell his love, but with no success. And yet Lord Mentmore is the most amiable and accomplished, and nearly one of the richest, noblemen in England—a charming person who makes himself as agreeable to the poor as to the rich, and puts his immense wealth to such a good use as to reconcile its possession with the purest principles. As the story develops, the writer cannot disguise the fact—the baronet's son and daughter are in love with the manufacturer's son and daughter. But there seems little hope of their coming together. When Mr. Bradfield, in an awkward and almost insulting way, has privately suggested a match between his daughter and Stafford Carrington, as a means of averting a contest for the representation of the county, Sir Michael has repulsed the offer with disdain. Lawrence Bradfield, however, will not oppose the father of Evelyn, and he moreover is not prepared to take up the extreme radical line of politics which his own sire has cut out for him; so he gets into Parliament for a quiet place where he can be independent, and finds a small borough as good a path to name and fame as any other. But, though he has won the borough, he is still in no position to contest Evelyn with success, and probably would never be but for certain changes in the relations of the two families. There has always been a mystery concerning the Sommerton estate, already alluded to, which has passed into the hands of the Bradfields. It had been mortgaged by Sir Michael's father to the father of Abel Bradfield, and the Carrington family were somehow under the impression that the liability had been paid off, and that the estate ought rightly to be their own. The proofs, however, are on the other side, though the reader soon begins to detect the real state of the case. The receipt for the last instalment of the mortgage-money and the release of the estate, eventually turn up after a variety of adventures, and pass into the possession of Lawrence Bradfield, who has no hesitation in making immediate restitution. He communicates the discovery to his father just as the latter is upbraiding his daughter with her refusal of Lord Mentmore. The double

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shock (the fraud in reference to the mortgage has been long known to him, and kept a secret with his solicitor) is too much for the unhappy man, who drops down dead. Lawrence Bradfield's purpose is, however, carried out: the estate goes from his sister, whose portion it was, to Sir Michael Carrington; and the Bradfields would lose it altogether but for the happy marriage of Helen with Stafford which takes place some time afterwards, on the same auspicious day which unites Lawrence to Evelyn, the latter having added to the mark of attention on her part by refusing a duke. The author considers both bridegrooms so happy that "which is the winner" he will not pretend to say. All we need add is that three volumes of reading are by no means ill bestowed for so pleasing a result; for the book has real interest, besides being written in a style which we should call *dashing* if the word were not objectionable, and being agreeably interspersed with sketches of fashionable and sporting society—sufficiently coloured to please the eye, and sufficiently caricatured to amuse the fancy.

S. L. B.

THE LITERATURE OF COURSING.

The Greyhound in 1864: being the Second Edition of a Treatise on the Art of Breeding, Rearing, and Training Greyhounds for Public Running, &c. By Stonehenge. (Longman & Co.)

THE literature of coursing dates from the reign of Augustus Caesar. That sport was first practised by the inhabitants of Gallia Celtica, the original country of the greyhound, which was thence called by the Romans *Canis Gallicus*. The first mention of the noble hound by that name is found in Ovid's well-known simile (*Metam. i. 533*):—

"Ut canis in vacuo leporem cum Gallicus arvo
Videt, et hic prædam pedibus petit, ille salutem:
Alter in hæcuro similis, jam jamque tenere
Sperat, et extento stringit vestigia rostro;
Alter in ambiguo est an sit deprensus, et ipsis
Morsibus eripitur, tangentiaque ora relinquit."

"As when the impatient greyhound, slipped from far,

Bounds o'er the glebe to course the fearful hare,
She in her speed does all her safety lay,
And he with double speed pursues his prey,
O'erruns her at the sitting turn, and licks
His chaps in vain and blows upon the flix;
She scapes, and for the neighbouring covert
strives,

And, gaining shelter, doubts if yet she lives."—
Dryden.

It is certain that the greyhound was wholly unknown in Greece when Xenophon wrote his work on hunting; and, *à fortiori*, it is scarcely possible that it should have been known in Judæa at the period when the Book of Proverbs was compiled. We may therefore conclude with the learned Bochart that the word "greyhounds" in chap. xxx., v. 31, of the English text is a mistranslation. The interior of Gaul was a *terra incognita* even to the Romans before the time of Julius Caesar, nor was it fully explored by them from the Rhine to the ocean until the visit of Augustus. Then probably it was that the Romans first became acquainted with the native hound of that country, and began to practise the art of coursing. The period at which it had become generally diffused throughout the Empire is indicated by a memorable event in the history of sporting literature. This was the production in Hadrian's reign of the famous Treatise on Coursing, by Arrian of Nicomedia, the soldier and man of letters, who wrote also the "Anabasis of Alexander"—a work, says Dr. Robertson the historian, which, "though composed long after Greece had lost its liberty, and in an age when genius and taste were on the decline, is not unworthy the purest times of Attic literature"—and a History of India, which the same authority has declared to be "one of the most curious treatises transmitted to us from antiquity." Unequalled to this day in literary merit by any work on the same subject, his Treatise on Coursing has never been surpassed in practical utility by that

of any other writer except "Stonehenge." Arrian's account of his favourite greyhound "Horme," bred by himself—"a swift, hard-working, courageous, sound-footed bitch, and, in her prime, a match at any time for four hares"—speaks strongly for the soundness of her master's principles in the matters of breeding, training, and management of the kennel. Few modern greyhounds, even in their prime, could be relied on to master four hares per diem. It is pleasant, too, to mark in how high a degree Arrian was possessed with the spirit of fair play, which should always characterize the sportsman. "Stonehenge" himself cannot look with more scorn on mere pot-hunting than did his Greek prototype. The latter lays down this principle in favour of a swift hare which has shown good sport, that, if, when hard pressed, she succeeds in reaching covert, this should be taken in lieu of her death as proof that the dog has beaten her.

"For coursers," he says—"such, at least, as are true sportsmen—do not take their dogs out for sake of catching a hare, but for the contest and sport of coursing, and are glad if the hare meet with an escape. If she fly to any thin brake for concealment, though they may see her trembling and in the utmost distress, they will call off their dogs, and more particularly so when they have run well. Often, indeed, when following a course on horseback, have I come up to the hare as soon as caught, and myself saved her alive, and then, having taken away my dog, and fastened him up, allowed her to escape. And, if I have arrived too late to save her, I have smitten my head for sorrow that the dogs had killed so good an antagonist."

After Arrian's time a few notable lines on his favourite sport appeared in the Cynogeticon of the Greek poet Oppian, and others in that of Nemesian towards the close of the third century; and these were the last contributions to the classical literature of the leash. Its mediæval literature begins, towards the end of the fourteenth century, with "The Mayster of Game," by Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, fifth son of King Edward the Third. This able work, which is still in manuscript, was followed, early in the fifteenth century, by "The Booke of Hawkyng, Huntynge, &c.," from the pen of the sporting Prioress of Sopewell, Dame Juliana Berners. It was the first of its kind that issued from the English press, and contained what may therefore be regarded as virtually "the earliest attempt, since the revival of letters, to certify on intelligible canons the corporeal characteristics of a good greyhound." After its publication other cynogetica, poetical and prosaic, in various languages, followed in rapid succession; but all of them afford very scanty instruction on the history and practice of coursing. Nowhere has the *Canis Gallicus* fared so ill at literary hands as in the native land of his sires. Curious it is to find him fallen there so low in esteem that this variety of the chase, once peculiar to Gaul, has been left unnoticed in almost all the works on venery by Frenchmen both of the olden and the modern time. Savary of Caen, who published in 1655 a Latin poem on hunting in seven books, appears, like Somerville, the author of "The Chase," to have cherished a special dislike to the *Canis Gallicus*, and, in accordance with the proverb, he failed not to give the noble animal a bad name, applying to him the periphrastic and preposterous misnomer of

"Lacedæmonii pernix violentia monstri."

The angry poet will not even admit the Gallic origin of the object of his aversion. No, he exclaims—

"Gallos non hæc infamia tangit."

An anonymous and now scarce English translation of Arrian's treatise was published in 1831. Its author, an accomplished scholar and a practised courser, sets very little store by the improvements, either in the management of the courser's kennel or his practice in the field, which have been transmitted to us by any or all of the post-classical cynogetica. He is even of opinion that modern ingenuity has added little to the knowledge in any department of coursing which has been

bequeathed to us by Arrian. He forgets, however, that public coursing ("Stonehenge's" special subject) is a creation of very modern date. In other respects, however true the remarks of Arrian's translator may have been in 1831, or some twenty years later, the appearance of "Stonehenge's" first edition greatly changed the whole aspect of the matter. Standing on the vantage-ground of modern science, especially physiological science, and of the greatly enlarged and improved means of observation which England affords at this day, "Stonehenge" has been proportionately successful in supplementing the labours of the grand old Greek, whose seventeen centuries' long supremacy has, by universal consent, devolved upon himself. His new edition is enriched and amended by the additional experience of eleven years, in which he has seen the various breeds of greyhounds tried against each other on nearly every coursing ground in Great Britain, and has studied and compared the various modes of treatment adopted in rearing and training them through the different coursing districts. The chapters relating to training and the choice of sires and dams have been entirely rewritten, time having somewhat modified the author's former views on those subjects. Some useful matter has also been added concerning the maladies incident to greyhounds. The important subject of the last chapter is the National Coursing Club, established in 1858. In this chapter are given the new rules of that body for the decision of cases—rules which were drawn up by the author himself, in conjunction with the Earl of Sefton and Mr. C. Jardine—together with the decisions of the Club on the several questions submitted to it since 1858. These decisions must now be considered as precedents for future guidance.

Public coursing, as distinguished from private, is the theme on which "Stonehenge" writes. The two are conducted on very different principles. Broadly stated, the object aimed at in the latter of them is the death of the hare; and, for those who practise this sport, the dog that kills most hares is too often the best dog, kill them how he may. On the other hand, the public courser considers the hare only as the necessary means of testing the powers of his greyhounds, and these animals as competing not so much with the hare as with one another. The consequence of this difference of circumstances, says "Stonehenge," is that

A good private dog is seldom of much use in public, because he has been practised so much in order to make him sure of his game that he has learned to run cunning, and reserve his powers for their most advantageous display; in fact, he has found that he and his partner, by each alternately pressing the hare, can beat her with little difficulty, whereas, if they both do their best from first to last, the hare has a fair chance of escape. . . . The greyhound's speed gives him sufficient advantage over the hare without exercising his mental powers also. The axiom, therefore, has been laid down that the greyhound is the best which, throughout the course, does the most towards killing the hare, and not necessarily the one which kills her. On this principle every display of cunning leads to a certain loss, because it allows the other dog to do something in the meantime towards killing the hare—in other words, "to score one or more points." . . . A little waiting now and then is a point in favour of the dogs as against the hare, and is often encouraged in private, but is fatal if the contest is in public, not only to the present success of the animal, but often to his further existence; for its display generally ensures his speedy death unless it comes on after such an amount of work as to excuse its occurrence.

At the first peep into this handsome volume the eye will be caught without fail by the exquisite portraits of famous greyhounds that adorn it, and it will return to them again and again, whether spontaneously for its own gratification, or in accordance with the references and cross-references to them that abound in the text. They are twenty-four in number, and have been selected, as far as possible, on the principle of presenting the most characteristic forms and most remarkable performers.

W. K. K.

THE READER.

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"LINDISFARN CHASE" AND "GASPAR TRENCHARD."

Lindisfarn Chase. A Novel. By Thomas Adolphus Trollope, author of "Beppo," "Giulio Malatesta," "La Beata," &c. (Chapman and Hall.)

Gaspar Trenchard. A Novel. By Bracebridge Hemming, of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law. (Maxwell & Co.)

THE difference between the merit of these two novels might safely be predicated from the difference of the literary reputations of the writers. Mr. T. A. Trollope is the author of many readable works, and occupies a position among writers of fiction which, if it were not for an unfortunate contrast with his highly gifted brother, would be more than respectable. Mr. Hemming, on the other hand, is the wielder of an untried pen; and, in the work before us, we regret to say he has done nothing to excite hopes for the future. We will, however, proceed to analyse the books in question in due order.

The plot of "Lindisfarn Chase" turns on the love-affairs of two pretty heiresses, and the narrow escape they had of turning out to be no heiresses at all. The scene of the story is limited to the neighbourhood of a cathedral town situated in Sillshire—under which name we have little difficulty in recognising Somersetshire—and the incidents are neither numerous nor striking. As to the moral of the story, we are tempted to guess that it lies in the different result of English and French female education. The owner of Lindisfarn Chase is a fine old English squire, of the type in existence half a century ago, named Oliver Lindisfarn. He is a widower with two daughters—one, Kate, at the opening of the story, residing with him, the other, Margaret, with her mother's sister, the Baronne de Renneville, who, being childless, has adopted her. Mr. Lindisfarn's only nephew having been killed, as was supposed, by some North-American Indians a few years before the commencement, the estate is at the former's disposal, and will be, it was taken for granted, divided at his death between the two girls. Monsieur de Renneville, who is a great financier, fails, and Margaret returns to her father, very pretty, very well dressed, very graceful, and abominably artificial. Kate is a great contrast to her sister in every way. Honest, natural, and fond of out-door pursuits, without being the least coarse or masculine, she illustrates charmingly the difference between well-brought up, and *très-bien élevée*. Of course the sisters fall in love, but, providentially, not with the same person. Kate's admirer is a Lieutenant Effingham, the poor younger son of a poor peer, and commanding a revenue-cutter on the neighbouring coast. Margaret's cavalier, Freddy Falconer, is a local dandy, the son of a tolerably rich banker in Silverton. In the midst of the love-making a conflict occurs between the coast-guardsmen and some smugglers, in which one of the latter, apparently a Frenchman, receives, it is thought, a mortal wound. Kate, summoned to his bed-side on a mission of mercy, is told by the wounded man, under a promise of secrecy to all save her sister, that he is her long-lost cousin, who was not, after all, killed by the Indians as had been thought. She is also vaguely informed that, even if he dies, it will make no difference as to her financial prospects. Under these circumstances she feels it would be wrong to accept a proposal from a man who has courted her under the impression that she is an heiress. Consequently, when Effingham asks her to be his wife, she, much to her own as well as his distress, refuses him, without any explanation of her reasons. She, however, fails in persuading her sister to see the matter in the same light as herself. The latter not only does not avoid her lover, but even exerts herself to bring him to the point. He, urged on by his father, and anxious to make sure of the supposed heiress, plays up to her game and they get engaged. Contrary to all

expectations, the smuggler cousin recovers, and Margaret, in order to anticipate the disclosure of the secret, consents to her lover's proposal of an elopement—his haste being prompted by his father's hints that it would not be advisable to wait for the tedious completion of the settlements, the affairs of the bank being in a dangerous state. The lady is shown us arriving at the garden-door as Falconer approaches it on the other side of the wall. The carriage is waiting to carry them off; but two inches of wood and twenty yards of distance separate the lovers; no suspicion has been excited; everything augurs favourably for the two diamonds who are so anxious to cut each other. At this crisis, while Margaret is eagerly listening for approaching footsteps, a confidential clerk hurries up to young Falconer, with his father's commands to give up the enterprise. He behaves like a dutiful as well as prudent son, and returns. Margaret shivers in the cold for half-an-hour, and re-enters the house in an amiable state of mind—in short, it is, as the French would say, a *coup manqué*. The fact is that, a few minutes before the hour fixed for the elopement, it had become known in the town that the smuggler cousin, long supposed to be dead, had this time been really killed, having been drowned on his passage to France, and that a claim had been put forward to the inheritance of Lindisfarn on behalf of a boy purporting to be the dead man's legitimate son. When things are at their worst they always mend; at least this is invariably the case in novels if not in real life. The case of the new claimant is supported by an extract from a register, the original of which cannot be found. After some trouble and inquiry the important book is at last discovered, and the forgery ascertained. Kate, assisted by a godmother, who brings her lover once more to her feet, is rewarded for her high principle by marriage with the man of her choice; while Freddy Falconer and Margaret, though recognising each other's duplicity, agree that, in spite of what has occurred, they may as well be married also. The above is the outline of the plot, which, though not possessed of any intrinsic merit, is rendered the vehicle for several excellent bits of humour and some good delineations of character. The worthy archaeological, absent-minded canon is very well drawn, and his eccentricities cannot but make the reader laugh. The following extract will serve as a specimen:—

"Oh, my dear! We had all gone into the dining-room; the Dean took me, of course, and the rest came in as they chose; for the Doctor was not there. He never will do anything like other people! and generally, when there are any people here, he joins us in the dining-room. Well, my dear, dear Margaret! We were all in our places round the table. Sanders said the Doctor was coming, and was holding the door open for him. We all paused a minute, still standing to wait for him, when . . . Oh, my dear child! I shall never, never forget that moment! In walked your uncle . . . I could see by the look of his eye in a minute that he had no more idea of where he was, or what he was doing than a stark staring Bedlamite . . . up he walked to his place at the bottom of the table with the same sort of step he has, you know, when he is walking up the nave with his surplus on, and . . . and . . . down he went on his knees, and put his face into his soup plate, as if it was his trencher-cap! Oh, Margaret! I thought I should have dropped where I stood! The Dean behaved very well; but I saw Mrs. Barton give him a look across the table. Then we all sat down; and I was in hopes that that would have recalled him to himself, and to some decent sense of the proprieties of the time and place. But not a bit of it! Presently he stood up, and looked round the table in a calm and dignified sort of way, as much as to ask why the service didn't begin. And that vulgar, coarse wretch, Minor Canon Thorburn, who was sitting near the bottom of the table, called out in his great chanting voice, 'Not a bit of it, Doctor! I have chanted the service twice this day, and I'm not going to begin it again!' and that brought him to; 'Ah! bless my soul!' said he, 'dinner time! so it is!' Thorburn and

I make it straight between us. He thinks he is elsewhere, sometimes, when he is in church, I think I am in church when I ought to be eating my dinner!' And then there was a tittering all round. But what provokes me past bearing is that your Uncle takes all such things as coolly and calmly as if he were doing everything he ought to do! He was not embarrassed, not he! He has no sense of shame!"

Mr. Trollope is also very happy in his flirtation scenes. Freddy Falconer's proposal to Margaret is really capital. The gentleman plays the game in the orthodox manner, and has arrived at the point where he ventures to call the lady by her Christian name. Some of our readers may find the stage directions, parenthetically introduced, useful on similar occasions.

"Whatever your trouble may be, can you not confide it to me? Mar . . . Oh, forgive me, Miss Lindisfarn! I . . . I . . . I forgot myself! That sweet, dear name! Marguerite! May I dare . . . May I call you, Marguerite?"

(This is an important point in the play; and, according to the rules of this Royal Game of Goose, you stop three turns for the eyes to exchange a glance, to which Burleigh's nod was as a sixpenny pamphlet to a Blue Book of the biggest dimensions. If the lady player be sure of herself, and knows what she is about, she may make the look steady and fixed for five seconds, and make it up of fluttered tenderness three parts, gently reproachful pathos two parts, and ingenuous surprise—one part, dissolved in two drops of *lachryma pura*. N.B. A larger quantity of the liquid vehicle would injure the operation. A gentle heaving of the bosom may be judiciously thrown in. Exhibited in this form the effect is wonderful.)

Before quitting "Lindisfarn Chase" we would express our opinion that, though by no means a first-class novel, it is above the average of those fictions supplied by circulating libraries. Mr. T. A. Trollope's productions cannot be compared to his brother's works; yet, if not full-bodied claret, they are, at all events, very drinkable *vin ordinaire*.

"Gaspar Trenchard" is very inferior to the book we have just noticed. It is the first-fruit of a new author, and we should consequently be glad if we could speak with tenderness of it. Our duty to the public unfortunately will not enable us to do so; and we are bound in candour to state that we earnestly hope that this will be the last, as it is the first, of Mr. Hemming's literary attempts. We cannot indulge in the slightest hope that time and practice will enable him to produce a novel fit for any other place than the pages of the poorest of the cheap periodicals. His book contains all the faults of the tales usually found in the serials to which we allude, being disfigured by the vices of sensation literature without possessing what may be termed the spice which, to a certain extent, redeems them. It is full of incidents which are improbable, without vigour, and is, moreover, dull and prosy. We will not weary our readers with any account of the plot of, or extracts from, this very dull novel, neither shall we point out in detail its numerous blemishes. We content ourselves with asking how, with any pretension to probability, Mr. Hemming can venture to describe the feelings and last actions of a man who is killed by the falling in of a grave which he is digging, seeing that we are expressly told that no witnesses were present.

HISTORY OF ITALIAN ART.

A New History of Painting in Italy from the Second to the Sixteenth Century; drawn up from Fresh Materials and Recent Researches in the Archives of Italy; as well as from Personal Inspection of the Works of Art scattered throughout Europe. Vols. I. and II. By J. A. Crowe and G. B. Cavalcaselle, authors of "The Early Flemish Painters." (Murray.)

[SECOND NOTICE.]

REVERTING for a moment to a time much earlier than that to which the study of Masolino, Masaccio, and Angelico has brought the reader, we are recalled, at the opening of the second volume, to the

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"declining school of Giottoesques" and to the memory of the days when Taddeo Gaddi, departing from a world in which he had earned fame and riches, entrusted his son Agnolo to Giovanni di Milano and Jacopo di Casentino.

Jacopo's chief claim to notice is derived from the business-like assiduity with which he founded, in 1349, the company of painters under the patronage of the Virgin, Saints John the Baptist, Zanobi, Reparata, and Luke, thus giving to his profession a standing of its own. The rules drawn up for the government of this body were preceded by an appeal to the religion of the members, of which the following may be taken as an amusing specimen:—

As it is our opinion that, during this our dangerous pilgrimage on earth, we should have St. Luke Evangelist as a special advocate between us, the divine Majesty, and the Virgin Mary, and at the same time that her servants should be pure and free from sin, we do hereby order that all who do or shall subscribe their names as members of this company, be they male or female, shall contritely confess their sins, or at least make proof of an intention to do so on the nearest possible occasion; . . . and whoever joins this body is bound daily to tell five paternosters and five Ave Marias, and, should he omit or be constrained by circumstances to neglect this duty and forget these prayers one day, he shall tell them the next, or whenever the matter may come within his memory.

The most eminent of Jacopo's pupils was Spinello of Arezzo, whose style may be studied at San Miniato, outside Florence, in the Campo Santo at Pisa, and in the Palazzo Publico at Siena. He painted in almost all the churches of Arezzo and its vicinity; and a careful record of his works, here as well as at Florence and Siena, will be found in the opening chapter of the second volume. His assistants and followers were the Gerini, Parri Spinelli, and the three Bicci.

The rise, progress, and decline of art in Siena are ably treated in five chapters of the second volume. Duccio was the founder of the Siennese school. Ugolino, Segna, Simone Martini, the Lorenzetti, and Bartoli did no more in the fourteenth century than follow the wake which marked his track. The Siennese painters were chiefly remarkable for the mastery of technical difficulties and minute attention to details. They failed to appreciate "the decorous simplicity of the Florentine revival." Siena created no rival to Giotto, but yet, after the death of the great Florentine, her influence was more extensive than that of Florence, and in Perugia she created a school which contributed much to the education of Perugino and Raphael.

A record of Duccio's pictures, including the celebrated "Majesty" painted for the high altar of the cathedral, will be found in vol. ii., chap. 11; and we then pass on to Ugolino, Segna, and to Simone Martini, described by our authors as second only to Giotto. This painter executed works at Siena, at Pisa, at Orvieto, and especially at Assisi, where he decorated the whole of the chapel of St. Martin with scenes from the legends of that saint. "Simone, however, had not that consistent equality and unity of power which Giotto possessed. His style was a series of contradictions. In single figures or portraits he excelled; in action and incident he was frequently tame and exaggerated." Simone subsequently painted at the Papal court of Avignon, where he made the acquaintance of the poet of Vacluse and of Laura, whose portrait he drew. He painted many pictures at Avignon, where he died in 1344. "Masses and vigils for his soul were said and held at Siena on the 4th of August." We pass over Lippa Memmi, Bara, and Luca di Thomé, and come to the Lorenzetti. Pietro, the elder, is spoken of as the rival of Simone; he executed numerous altar-pieces, the most remarkable being that in the Pieve of Arezzo; he painted also at Assisi, where, first among the artists of Siena, he made a near approach to the perfection of Florence; he also executed important works at Pisa, in San Francesco and in the Campo Santo.

Of his brother Ambrozo we know that, among other works, he painted in the public palace of Siena three vast allegories illustrative of the advantages to be derived from justice and peace, and of the evils arising from tyranny.

The figure of Justice is one of the noblest and finest produced in the school of Siena. It deserves, indeed, to be classed amongst the greatest creations of art of the time. A noble mien, supreme dignity, adorn the figure, and sit on the brow of a youthful female, whose mighty tresses are plaited out beneath a diadem, leaving the cheeks, the neck, free to display their rich and well-filled forms. . . . No one after Giotto better or more artistically coupled dignity with elegance and grace; and, if severe simplicity is not attained in the Florentine measure, it is that the Siennese were of a different stamp and spirit from their rivals.

We now pass on to Taddeo Bartoli and his imitators, who represented the decline of Siennese art. Bartoli for a time "supported the Siennese school by his talent and power. He could not raise it higher. . . . Siena gained less from him than it did from the Lorenzetti. It could not rival Florence—not because it had not created men of talent, but because it had had no Giotto." A short notice of subordinate masters brings us to the rise of the Umbrian School, which was clearly the result of Siennese example and teaching.

The Umbrians produced on the models of Siena with such singular felicity of imitation that it would be puzzling to distinguish the progeny from the parent stock, were it not that a vague stamp of originality still marks the Gubbian painter and his neighbour of Fabriano. Second in talent to the artists of Siena, these men were characterized by a tendency to intensify the affectation of grace and tenderness which, from the earliest time, had been peculiar to their masters. Prettiness was their chief quality, and from the outset marked a class of men whose posterity was destined to contribute, by its progress in Urbino and Perugia, to the greatness of Raphael.

The chief painters of Gubbio were Oderisio, who was contemporary with Giotto, and Guido Palmerucci, whose works are here detailed at some length. Gubbio had also a school of mosaics; and two Gubbian mosaists are known to have worked in the lower church at Assisi. At Fabriano very early works of art are still in existence by Nuzi, Ghissi, and others. It is remarkable that, though Perugia inherited in the fifteenth century the style of the painters of Gubbio, it produced nothing of value during the fourteenth, although it lay within sight of Assisi, where the best Florentine and Siennese rivalled each other in the production of the finest masterpieces.

We pass over a chapter devoted to the consideration of the early progress of art in Bologna, Modena, and Ferrara, and come to the causes which affected early art in Verona, Padua, and Venice; and here it is certainly curious to observe that, although Giotto resided long in Padua, his influence upon contemporary artists in that neighbourhood was very slight. Long after his death artists arose whose qualities are described as being those of the Giottoesque school. Such were Altichiero and Avanzi, who were employed in the decoration of the chapels of San Felice and of San Giorgio at Padua. Venice at this time is described to have been, as regards art, a Byzantine colony.

Everything in Venice bore so completely an Eastern character, not only in edifices and mosaics, but in the luxury and fondness for show of the inhabitants, that one may easily conceive its clinging long to that which had already been rejected by the rising taste of freer people in other parts of Italy. Like Sicily, she preserved her relations with the East, and thus kept alive the traditions of Byzantine art, to the exclusion of Giotto and his followers.

The history of Venetian art at this period possesses but little interest, and its school was of little account until the rise of the sons of Jacopo Bellini gave her the lead of all the schools of Italy.

The tenth chapter of the second volume contains an admirable sketch of the lives of Brunelleschi, Ghiberti, and Donatello, and of the influence of these remarkable men in

rekindling the sacred fire which burnt low at the close of the fourteenth century. We are tempted, did space allow, to extract the criticism on the famous gates of S. Giovanni, which is written with great judgment and taste. What we have to note in the practice of these masters is the revival of the classical spirit and its effect upon all subsequent art. It invaded the whole Christian ground. "Purely religious painting had sunk into the grave of Angelico, who had lived to see new generations spring up around him unmoved by his example or careless of his honest enthusiasm." Florentine art in the fifteenth century is characterized less by purity of aim than by effort to master the technical difficulties of painting, with a tendency to imitate the models of ancient Greece and Rome.

One of the first painters in Florence who worked under the new influence was Ghiberti's pupil, Paolo Uccelli; and an interesting sketch of his career will be found in this volume. He decorated the cloisters of Santa Maria Novella with numerous frescoes illustrative of the Creation of the World, the Deluge, the Sacrifice of Noah, &c. One group in these compositions, representing the creation of Adam, probably suggested to Michael Angelo his far nobler composition. Paolo Uccelli has drawn Adam in the act of receiving life from the Creator, who raises him by the hand from his reclining posture. Michael Angelo has conceived his Adam as at the moment of receiving life from the finger of God as He passes by in the whirlwind. These frescoes are much injured, but they are interesting in many ways, and clearly demonstrate the influence of the revived appreciation of classical models.

Passing over the Florentine realists and students of perspective, a science which was carefully studied in the fifteenth century, we follow our authors in a carefully-written chapter on the life and works of Fra Filippo Lippi, who early became an inmate of the convent of the Carmine at Florence, and probably studied painting in the neighbouring chapel of the Brancacci. He is said to have been "the greatest colourist and the most complete master of the technical difficulties in art of his time." The story, which rests upon the authority of Vasari, of his amour with the nun Lucrezia Buti, who sat to him for a figure of the Virgin, is discredited by the authors of these volumes, with great reason. He painted many altar-pieces, working also at Prato, in the cathedral, and at Spoleto, where he adorned the apsis of the cathedral with scenes from the life of the Virgin. A careful catalogue of his works is supplied by the authors. Space will not admit of our dwelling upon the chapters devoted to the consideration of "Innovations in the Art of Painting," and of the attempts of the realists to introduce oil-painting, which was but partially successful in the hands of the Peselli, the Pollaiuoli, and others, until Verocchio took part in the development of a new artistic period, in which Sandro, Botticelli, Filippino Lippi, and the Raphaels distinguish themselves. An etching of Lippi's figure of St. Paul, in the Carmine at Florence, sets before us the original idea of the figure, afterwards carried out so grandly by Raphael in his Paul at Athens. He not only painted in the Brancacci, but he visited Rome, where he decorated the walls of the Capella Caraffa with scenes from the life of St. Thomas Aquinas; and numerous altar-pieces came from his hands. It is worthy of note that, on his way to Rome, through Spoleto, he erected a monument, at the expense of Lorenzo de Medici, to the pictorial virtues of Fra Filippo, his reputed father. In the twentieth chapter of the second volume we are introduced to Domenico Ghirlandaio, "whose life forms, like that of Giotto, one of the great landmarks in the history of Florentine art."

He was a painter whose energy and creative power contemned the mere practice of painting altar-pieces, and whose grasp of the essential qualities of art enabled him to conceive and carry out greater creations. Unequal to Masaccio, or even to Fra Filippo, in the power of charming by bright-

ness or richness of tone, he first claimed attention by his intelligence of grand and decorous laws of composition. His strongly-tempered mind, braced with a nerve equal to that of Michel Angelo, was above the artifices of colour; and he doubtless considered them second to the science of distribution and of form, and calculated to fetter his inclination for expressing on large surfaces, and with great speed, the grand conceptions of his genius. In these conceptions, fruits of long study and careful thought, he aimed at embodying all the essential elements conducive to a perfect unity. That unity he had found in Giotto, and strove with such success to emulate that he may be said to have completed the body of the edifice whose first stone had been laid almost two centuries before by that successful artist. Yet he might have struggled to the goal in vain had he not taken for a guide in his pictorial manhood the works of one who had given proof, during a career too short for his contemporaries, but long enough for his fame, that he possessed the noblest faculties. Ghirlandaio studied attentively and faithfully the masterpieces of Masaccio at the Carmine, taking from them the grand qualities of decorum, dignity, and truth. . . . He gathered and harvested for use the experience of architects, of students of perspective, of form, of proportion, and light and shade, and learnt to apply the laws of chiaroscuro to the human frame, and to the still life that surrounds it. Without adding anything specially to the total amount of experience acquired by the efforts of successive searches, he garnered the whole of it within himself, and combined it in the support and illustration of the great maxims which he had already treasured up, and thus conduced to the perfection of the masculine art of Florence, which culminated at last by the joint energy and genius of himself, Fra Bartolomeo, Raphael, and Michel Angelo.

We have extracted this passage as an instance of the critical faculty which, although subordinated to strictly historical statements, is everywhere present in these carefully-written volumes. The career of the great painter is traced through all his labours in Rome as well as in Florence. The frescoes of Santa Trinita and of Santa Maria Novella, upon which his fame chiefly rests, are described with minute precision and in a fair and kindly spirit, and a classification of his works is appended to the sketch of his life. Space will not allow us to notice the works of Ghirlandaio's pupils, some of whom, however, rose to the standard of their master. We pass on, therefore, to Bonozzo Gozzoli, a versatile and prolific painter of the fifteenth century, who followed Angelico to Rome and acted as his assistant at Orvieto. His most important frescoes are to be found at S. Gemignano, "where he decorated the choir of the church of S. Agostino with a triple course of scenes from the legends of St. Augustine, from the first moment of his entering the grammar-school at Tegaste to his burial." Though not an original artist, Bonozzo was a very successful one. He completed the great series of frescoes which bear his name in the Campo Santo at Pisa in sixteen years. The date of his death is uncertain, though a tomb in the Campo Santo was erected to his memory by the Pisans.

The concluding chapters of this volume are occupied by the lives of Cosimo Roselli and Piero della Francesca, under whose influence the style of Melozzo da Forlì and Marco Palmezzano, and probably also that of Giovanni Santi, the father of Raphael, was formed. Piero della Francesca was an artist of rare gifts. "He was the forerunner and superior of Ghirlandaio in the mode of projecting shadows, and thus added to art a new perfection." He prepared the way for Fra Bartolomeo and Leonardo da Vinci to perfect the process of painting in oils, hitherto but imperfectly developed in Florentine art. A short sketch of the duchy of Urbino and of the Santi family introduces us to the youth of Raphael, and concludes the second volume.

In taking leave of these volumes we have only to record our opinion that the authors have so far produced a most complete history of early Italian art—a history that is not only eminently distinguished by critical acumen, but remarkable also for the conscientious spirit in which it has been written. No pains have been spared either in the

search for new sources of information or in careful reference to well-established authorities. The reader will readily recognise the care taken by the authors in the foot-notes, by reference to which almost every important statement is sustained. For convenience as a book of reference marginal notes would be useful; and we submit this as a suggestion that might be adopted in the two forthcoming volumes. The text is illustrated by numerous engravings, which, without being remarkable, are fairly executed, and suffice to put the student in possession of the plan of composition adopted by the great individual painters who exercised an important influence upon particular schools.

NOTICES.

Memorials of Old Birmingham: Men and Names; Founders, Freeholders, and Indwellers, from the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth Century; with Particulars as to the Earliest Church of the Reformation built and endowed in England. From Original and Unpublished Documents. By Toulmin Smith of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Fellow of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen. (Birmingham: Walter J. Sackett; London: J. R. Smith. Pp. 186.)

IN this admirable contribution towards a history of Birmingham Mr. Toulmin Smith has proved himself possessed of something more than mere antiquarian sympathies, and has treated the ancient memorials which have come down to us, whether such memorials happen to be contained in parchments, customs, laws, or even names, in a spirit so judicial, and with a discrimination so just, that we marvel not at his having been solicited by the good people of Birmingham to become their historian. We cannot do better than give an extract or two from our author's book; and first, as to the citizen of the period treated of by our author, and of the institutions under which he lived, Mr. Toulmin Smith says: "The universal spirit and the living breath of all the institutions known and cherished from the earliest times by the Common Law of England, before empirical Acts of Parliament became the ever-changing fashion, were the principles that every man is an item in the state, finds his place in it as a member of the community wherein he dwells, and has positive duties to fulfil towards it in that community as his contribution to that common good of which, as an item in the state, he enjoys the benefits." All this, he shows, was before the introduction of "the modern costly devices of governing by centralized bureaux, commissioners, and inspectors." "He [the citizen] grew up with a daily growing knowledge of his duties and responsibilities, and passed through life in the practice of these as a part of his business, which he neither sought to shirk, nor would it have been 'respectable' for him to shirk." Then, as to the king, we find our author holding with Lord Chief Justice Coke that the laws alone are supreme; and we find a tolerably strong proof of it in the following quotation, referring to a "Pardon" granted by Edward the Second:—"With that carefulness to keep within the law which so strikingly marks the proceedings found stated in our early records, before any one had dreamed of using the phrase 'the king can do no wrong' in the preposterously inverted and unmeaning sense in which it is now often used, the operation of this Pardon is limited, by its own express terms, to so far only as the king's power in the matter actually reached ('quantum in nobis est'). No pretence of 'Prerogative Power' is set up." As to lands, again, "such a thing as irresponsible ownership is absolutely unknown to the Common Law of England, and is entirely repugnant to its whole spirit;" and Mr. Smith shows most conclusively how egregiously those writers err who tell us that "the laws relating to land in England were framed and are upheld 'for the express purpose of keeping the land in the hands of a few proprietors; of depriving the peasants and small shopkeepers of any part of it, and of the influence which its possession confers; and of supporting a great proprietor class.'" From sundry documents he shows that "freeholders" were as proportionately numerous then as now, and that the parishioners of the olden time knew nothing whatever of "pew-rents." And, finally, as to surnames, let all *parvenus* lay the following to heart:—"Some people imagine that the insertion of the little particle 'de' in a name is rather a fine thing, and sounds aristocratic. There cannot be a greater mistake. In point of fact,

such an insertion, if it had now any meaning, would show that the family is of such mushroom origin that it has not yet even acquired any true surname." We refer to these matters as being important to the general reader, and as showing the spirit with which our author approaches his subject; but we can assure our readers that throughout the volume the local interest is kept well in the foreground, and that the "Memorials of Birmingham" are set forth worthily. The illustrations and fac-similes have been most successfully done by Messrs. Day and Son.

Lyra Mystica: Hymns and Verses on Sacred Subjects, Ancient and Modern. Edited by the Rev. Orby Shipley, M.A. (Longman & Co. Pp. 447.)—THIS is another specimen of excellent typography, and the volume forms at once a companion and a contrast to the "Lyra Eucharistica" and "Lyra Messianica." "Many translations have been made by friends," says the preface, "and original poems have been received both from former contributors and from other authors." In short, the present volume completes the series.

Oxford Local Examinations. Goldsmith's Traveller, with Explanatory Notes, Exercises in the Analysis of Sentences, and a Life of the Poet. For the Use of Colleges and Schools. By Walter McLeod, F.R.G.S., M.C.P., Head Master of the Model School, and Master of Method in the Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea. (Longman & Co. Pp. 66.)—ALL those interested in the Oxford Local Examinations will understand readily enough the great use of a work of this kind. As well as the analysis of sentences, it contains a short but intelligible chapter on versification, and several pages of critical remarks, from various sources, on the poem itself.

Scripture and Science not at Variance; with Remarks on the Historical Character, Plenary Inspiration, and Surpassing Importance of the Earlier Chapters of Genesis. By John H. Pratt, M.A., Archdeacon of Calcutta. (London: Hatchard & Co.; Calcutta: R. C. Lepage & Co. Pp. 279.)—FOR this edition, and in order to meet the present aspect of the controversy about the interpretation of the opening verses in Genesis, the author has re-written several pages; and "additions are made in the parts which treat on the Unity of the Human Race; on the Unity of Language; on the Age of the Human Race, supposed to be affected by ancient astronomical observations, the Chinese being now considered as well as the Hindoo; on the same, as indicated by flint remains and advocated in Sir Charles Lyell's recent work on the 'Antiquity of Man.'"

Blackader's Chronological New Testament, according to the Authorized Version: newly divided into Paragraphs and Sections, with the Dates and Places of Transactions; Concise Introductions to the several Books; a Running Analysis of the Epistles, and Notes Critical and Illustrative. (Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. Pp. 409.)—"THE main idea," says the preface, "is that of a paragraph Bible of convenient size and legible type, with an increased number of marginal notes; those now added being distinguished from the notes of the revisers of 1611 by being bracketed." The printing and getting-up are admirable; and it is surprising how much valuable and appropriate matter Mr. Blackader has put into the two narrow columns which border the text. This is the "second edition, revised and enlarged."

Helps to Prayer and Devotion: intended chiefly for the Use of Young Persons who have been recently Confirmed. (J. H. and J. Parker. Pp. 31.)—THIS little manual will be found well adapted for young persons recently confirmed. The prayers and services are short, and very conducive to piety.

WE have received from Messrs. Virtue Brothers & Co. the fourth volume of Robert Scott Burn's *Outlines of Modern Farming*, in which he treats, with his usual perspicuity, of the *Management of the Dairy, Pigs, Poultry, &c.* Appended to the volume are *Notes on the Diseases of Stock*, by a veterinary surgeon; and the general text is aided by illustrations.

MESSRS. JOHN CHURCHILL AND SONS send us a thin illustrated pamphlet on the *Nerve Currents*, by Lionel T. Beale, M.B., F.R.S., of considerable scientific interest. It is entitled *Indications of the Paths taken by the Nerve Currents as they traverse the Caudate Nerve-cells of the Spinal Cord and Encephalon; and An Abstract of a Paper upon the Minute Anatomy of the Papilla of the Frog's Tongue.*

FROM S. W. Partridge we have *Julien Meall*, a brief memoir of a little boy who was tremendously pious, and who accordingly "died in Jesus at the age of Eight Years, Two Months, and Eight Days."

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THE MAGAZINES FOR DECEMBER.

Blackwood opens with "A Visit to the Cities and Camps of the Confederate States in 1863-64," by a cavalry officer, whose opportunities of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the present aspects of things seem to have been of a favourable kind. If we may depend upon what he says, the South will never submit to the North, at least not "till hell freezes; and then," as the Southerner said, with more force than eloquence, "perhaps we will fight them on the ice." Sitting at the door of his hotel one evening with a party of Southerners, who were talking red-hot "Secesh," he had an opportunity of listening to their talk. "All regretted," says he, "that the American colonies had ever separated from England, and, though they professed to admire Washington personally, yet they heartily wished he had never been born. One went so far as to d— Christopher Columbus. 'What business on earth,' he said, 'had he to come and discover this God-forsaken country?' 'Yes, sir,' said another, addressing himself to me, 'it was a Yankee trick, sir. They cheated us as they have done ever since. We didn't want to quarrel with England; but they did, because they had been kicked out of the country with their Mayflower and their Puritans. D— them; I wish they had all been drowned at the bottom of the sea. And they didn't want to fight, sir; and we Southerners, like fools, went and fought it out for them, just as they're making the Dutch and Irish fight for them now, sir.' " Referring to the ways and humour of the negroes, he says, "They always call their masters and mistresses by their Christian names, whatever may be their rank and title. General Lee, for instance, will never be anything but 'Master Robert' to any of his servants. A few days ago I was in the tent of an officer who had just been promoted. His servant was making up his bed, and the officer told him to be sure and make it long enough. The 'boy' looked up and grinned. 'S'pose, Master William, you're not grown taller since you was Major.' " The paper on "The Public Schools Report" comes nearer home; and the merits of Winchester and Shrewsbury are freely and ably discussed. Paterfamilias will be kind enough to note that the writer of this paper cordially agrees with Dr. Temple when he says, "The education of boys at school depends in reality on three things—on the influence of their homes, on the traditions of the school derived from the past, and on the administration of it at the present time. The first of these three," says he, "is quite out of our reach, and yet it is the most powerful of all." Again, Mr. Thring, of Uppingham, says, "The schools of England will be good or bad according to the wishes of the homes of England;" and the Royal Commissioners themselves endorse the saying. "My Latest Vacation Excursion" relates to Salzburg and Tyrol, where "precipices and spikes as lofty to the eye as anything you can see anywhere come close round you and start up everywhere, from the brinks of rivers and lakes and from the side of the high-road." The lonely and the grand are combined in this happy region, and the writer of the article expatiates well upon both. Cornelius O'Dowd accounts for "Parsonitis"—parson's sore throat—in a way which has been done before by observant sinners, but which, for all that, does not detract from the force and truth of our philosopher's remark that "it is simply and purely brought on by men persisting in preaching in an assumed unnatural voice—a conventional voice, imagined," Cornelius supposes, "to be the most appropriate tone to call sinners from their wickedness and teach them to live better." If parsons would but speak from the pulpit naturally, "Nice and Naples would never be deluged with white chokers like a town under an Episcopal visitation." He thinks little of Napoleon and his dignified attitude, and far less of Mr. Banting, whom he seems inclined to regard as "a corpulent old humbug." He shows, indeed, that society can never be carried on "if Bantingism is to prevail." "Aunt Ann's Ghost Story" is cleverly told. *Fraser*, in its opening article upon "Ireland," comes to the conclusion that "the time is at hand when the revenues of the Irish Church shall be appropriated boldly by the State and applied on an equitable principle among the religious communities of Ireland—the Roman Catholics, as would be their right, receiving by far the greatest proportion." The results of such a course, the writer thinks, would be beneficial in many ways. "The Drama in Paris" is reviewed in a humorous vein, and, in another article, on the "Vie de Shakespeare," by Hugo, the writer, while noticing

sharply the many inaccuracies of Victor Hugo, neglects not to point out to us his many beauties. His concluding paragraph embodies truth and compliment so neatly that Victor Hugo himself might have written it. "M. Hugo," says the writer, "impetuously reproaches England because London contains no statue of Shakespeare. England may reply that a statue cannot be needed for such a fame; that the mind of every man capable of understanding the poet (and what could a statue do for the others?) holds his image within it; and we will urge that M. Victor's Hugo's own work, if only in its next edition he would cut away a few of its excrescences and reduce its statements to exactness, might be universally acknowledged as a worthier tribute to Shakespeare's genius than any figure carved in stone or bronze." The "Curiosities of the Patent Office" are cleverly set forth; and Mr. Henry Ottley, in his "Notes on Diplomacy and Diplomatic History," denounces the unconstitutional system of secrecy, and hopes that Parliament will soon resume its "old-established constitutional functions in international dealings and in matters of peace and war." Kaye's "History of the Indian Mutiny" is ably and favourably reviewed; "A Campaigner at Home" talks this month of Killiecrankie and the Scottish Royalists, Montrose and Dundee, in a spirited tone. "A. K. H. B." talks in his usual strain "Concerning Ten Years; with some Account of Things Learned in Them."

The *North British Review* has a very lengthy and important article on Latham's Johnson's Dictionary. The writer reviews the whole history of the language from the Saxon times downwards, points out many shortcomings and omissions on the part of Dr. Latham, and comes to the conclusion "that, if the parts of his Dictionary which have yet to appear are not a great improvement, both in etymology, quotation, and arrangement, on the six which have already seen the light, this new edition of Johnson's Dictionary will not only be the worst Johnson, but one of the worst dictionaries that the world can show." "Commercial Philanthropy" is not inviting in name, but the article itself is full of interest, and recounts the means such men as Titus Salt, Price of the Candle Company, Messrs. John Bagnall and Sons (Iron Works), Messrs. Copestake, Moore, & Co. (Bow Church Yard), Messrs. Thomas Adams & Co. (Nottingham), and other great employers of labour, adopt for the amelioration of the condition of their work-people. "Mildbad and its Waters" is descriptive and amusing; and the writer of the paper on "Liturgical Reform in the Church of England" is, on the whole, temperate and friendly. He says, "We may hope that, were her liturgy and formularies purged from the remaining dross which has come down from acrimonious times, and the laws which affect her discipline and order subjected to a careful scrutiny, she might widely extend her influence over the English people, and rise to a position worthy of her as a great national establishment." "Sellar's Roman Poets of the Republic" and "Mommson's History of Rome" receive respectful and scholarly attention in the paper entitled "Early Roman Tragedy and Epic Poetry," and modern Italian poetry receives equal justice in the article entitled "Giuseppe Giusti and his Times."

In *Macmillan* we find a long and able "Letter to a Colonial Clergyman" from the pen of F. D. Maurice. The paper, however, which will be read with most interest by English readers, and especially by English University men, is the one by the editor, in his "Recollections of Three Cities," on "Edinburgh University, its Professors and Debating Societies," as they flourished some three-and-twenty-years ago. The glimpses we get of the student-life of those days, and of the famous professors who moulded and influenced that life, are very vivid; and Chalmers and Wilson and Hamilton become to us absolute living realities. The "Rabbi," too—that "clerical old gentleman, with a great squab bald head, fat pinkish-white cheeks, portly and punctiliously clean general appearance, and very fat calves neatly encased in black stockings, who professed to teach the Oriental languages"—we should know in a moment were we to meet him in Fleet Street or the Strand. "The Influence of an Historical Idea" is a paper devoted to the exposition and praise of Mr. Bryce's "Holy Roman Empire," which was favourably reviewed in these columns a few weeks back. The poetry this month bears the signatures of Miss Muloch and Miss Rossetti; and Lord Hobart has a very good paper "On Intervention, Material and Moral."

In the *Cornhill Magazine* we find an excellent memoir of the late John Leech, illustrated with

his own sketches. The writer, in doing full justice to the man whose "death was a death in our homes," does not forget the artist, and furnishes us with much valuable information as to his manner of working, and with quite a little history of his artistic career. The story of "Armada" goes on as mysteriously as it commenced. The political and literary life of "Giovanni Battista Niccolini," the famous Italian dramatist, is well told in a paper headed with his name; and at the close of the article we have some spirited translations from his dramas. "The Bars of France and England" will interest as well as instruct English readers, and "A Convict's Views of Penal Discipline" will command the attention of everyone caring about the reform of our criminals. The paper on "Salvois" is written by one familiar with his subjects; and those anxious to know about his mode of life, and the dreadful accidents to which the hardy venturer is subject, will do well to consult this article. The illustrations are particularly good this month.

Temple Bar opens with a new story by W. G. Wills, author of "The Wife's Evidence," entitled "David Chantrey;" "Broken to Harness," by Edmund Yates, and "The Doctor's Wife," by Miss Braddon, draw to a close. Mary Brotherton, in her article on "Walter Savage Landor," thinks his "Imaginary Conversations" the most popular and "Pericles and Aspasia" his finest works. George Augustus Sala tells us, in "The Streets of the World," about the "Thurnmarkt" in Cologne, and discourses very amusingly about the plundering propensities of the hotel-keepers in the city of "The Three Kings," "The Eleven Thousand Virgins," and "Johann Maria Farina."

In *St. James's Magazine* we find the ubiquitous Miss Braddon going on with her story of "Only a Clod," and Paul Féval with his "Working in the Dark, a Romance of the Black Coats." The rest of the number is made up of the usual variety of sketches, essays, and legends.

The *British Army and Navy Review* contains interesting articles on "Dumouriez," "Admiral Byng," "The Scots Fusilier Guards," "Defences of Canada," and "The Spanish Armada and its Satirists." The "Scenes of Franco-Arab Life," with which the number opens, are picturesque, but at the same time evidently drawn from life.

We have received the current numbers of the following; but there is no necessity for our indicating their contents, as their names will readily enough suggest all that to the reader:—The *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, with plates and diagrams; the *Southern Monthly Magazine*, a highly respectable periodical, published at Auckland; *Our Own Fireside*, illustrated; the *Sixpenny Magazine*; the *Boy's Own Magazine* and the *Boy's Monthly Magazine*—the last two named are freely and cleverly illustrated. The *British Workman* and the *Band of Hope Review* also ornament our table.

We have also received *Good Words*, the *Sunday Magazine*, the *Sunday at Home*, the *Leisure Hour*, the *Family Herald*, and *Magnet Stories*.

GIFT-BOOKS FOR THE SEASON.

[FOURTH NOTICE.]

THE first place amongst gift-books published during the week is due to "The Lake Country," by E. Lyan Linton, with One Hundred Illustrations drawn and engraved by W. J. Linton," published by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. "It seemed to my husband and myself," writes the author, "that a pleasant book could be made by treating the Lake Country with the love and knowledge, artistic and local, belonging of right to natives and old inhabitants." No greater praise can be given to the book than placing on record that both Mrs. Linton and her husband have redeemed the promise made to themselves, and have produced, in the volume before us, one of the most charming books of local topography and travel—full of that kind of information which a sojourner amongst beautiful and romantic scenery delights in, and free from all guide-book fine writing. The vignettes, perhaps occasionally too small, are yet so exquisitely engraved on wood that they have quite the appearance of finished etchings, and, one and all, will bear examination with the glass, under which the delicacy of their finish becomes apparent. "The Lake Country" is a book to be coveted by those who have been to the Lakes and by those who have not, as pleasant to read as a book can be, and no less pleasant to look at in the beauty of its illustrations.

The Christmas book of the Religious Tract Society is a selection of selections in prose and

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poetry from the best modern writers, exquisitely illustrated with sixty wood-engravings by Butterworth and Heath, from drawings by Wimperis, John Gilbert, Barnes, Lee, Salmon, North, Noel Humphreys, and others, forming altogether an elegant gift-book, the text being printed off on glazed toned paper, and the binding rich and appropriate.

"Hyperion: a Romance. By Henry W. Longfellow. Illustrated with Twenty-four Photographs of the Rhine, Switzerland, and the Tyrol, by Francis Frith." "Am Rhein, am Rhein"—yes, after all, go where you will, the scenery, the legends and lays of the Rhine, like its wine and its kirschwasser, are things to leave indelible traces behind. Who that has been there, standing under the royal arms of England, and looking along the valley of the Rhine from the most magnificent ruin of the Middle Ages, the Schloss of Heidelberg, can ever efface the scene from his memory? There is scarcely a more pleasant companion than "Paul Fleming;" and gladly do we welcome the occasion of meeting him again in such congenial society as that of Francis Frith, and retracing with both of them the wandering footsteps of the young worshipper of the "dark ladie" through the most enchanting scenery of the Fatherland. Mr. Bennett has done wisely, we think, in choosing the "Hyperion" of Longfellow for his illustrated Christmas volume; and we congratulate Mr. Frith on the happiness of his choice of illustrations as he tracked the footsteps of the poet. The book itself needed no aid from the pencil of the artist to add to its charms. Photography alone can increase the pleasure of its perusal, by putting the seal of truthfulness to the word-painting of the poet. Mr. Bennett calls the volume, in proud exultation, "The Gift-Book of the Season." Certainly it will be a most acceptable gift to all who take delight in the beautiful in nature and in art.

"Illustrations to Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, by Fredk. J. Shields." Mr. Shields is a young artist of considerable promise, resident at Manchester, who has evidently studied carefully the productions of the school of which Albert Durer and Lucas Cranach were the chiefs. When he frees himself from the traditions of that school he becomes at once original and graphic. His "Vanity Fair" might have satisfied even the fastidious taste of Thackeray, and his "Blessed is He that Considereth the Poor" is a truthful picture of English cottage-life that tells its own tale.

"Merchant Enterprise; or, the History of Commerce from the Earliest Times; by J. Hamilton Fyfe," is just the book to place in the hands of a youth intended to follow the calling of a merchant. Confining itself, in chronological order, only to the more remarkable and striking incidents in the history of commerce, its pages, though full of valuable information, are as pleasant reading as a well-told tale.

"Pictures of Girl Life," by Catherine Augusta Howell, with a frontispiece by F. Eltze; "The Happy Holidays; or, Brothers and Sisters at Home," by Emma Davenport, with a frontispiece by F. Gilbert; and "The Primrose Pilgrimage," a woodland story in verse, by M. Betham Edwards, with illustrations by T. R. Macquoid, two of which, "Searching for Primroses" and "The Picnic," are evidently copied from nature, are three seasonable gift-books published by Messrs. Griffith and Farran.

Mrs. Mogridge sends forth "Family Walking Sticks; or, Prose Portraits of my Relations," by George Mogridge (Old Humphrey)," one of the class of books with which the sobriquet of the writer has been so long associated, with eight full-sized illustrations, got up as one of his popular eighteenpenny illustrated series, by Mr. Partidge, from whom we have also received "Three Opportunities; or, the Story of Henry Forrester," with the same number of illustrations.

"Struggles for Life," in the form of an autobiography of a Dissenting minister, is a species of fiction intended for its own public, for whom the Book Society in Paternoster Row are well-known caterers. "Tales of Filial Love, by Theodore H. Barran," illustrated with sixteen plates, will be a welcome gift-book to the young, to whom it addresses itself. "The Beauty and her Plain Sister" is also one of the semi-religious tales which always crop up at Christmas, and which is above the average of the class to which it belongs. Indeed, these Scottish stories are generally more carefully written than those which are produced south of the Tweed.

"Prince Hassan's Carpet," as all readers of that charming tale in the "Arabian Nights" which sets forth the love-passages in the lives of

Prince Ahmed and the Fairy Paribanou know full well, was the most wonderful of carpets, and transported those who sat down upon it wheresoever they listed. This carpet, it would seem, was picked up by Hope Luttrell, the writer of the present volume, at some old curiosity-shop in Wardour Street, and on it she carries the reader with her to many a pleasant scene; and a very nice way of travelling it is, amidst the discomfort of winter fogs and cold, by the mere utterance of a "heigh-presto" to find oneself comfortably seated at the hospitable Christmas board of any dear friend we may intend to honour with our presence.

Christmas would not be Christmas without a tale of Mr. Thomas Miller for the very wee folks of the family; and here we have "Goody Platts and her Two Cats," all told in words of one and two syllables, and as pretty a nursery tale as any which the season has produced. Our little folks ought to be very happy this Christmas, when a F.R.S. unbends and writes nonsense-verses for their delectation. But why spoil sport and quote Latin on the title instead of saying

"For pretty girls and little boys,
And all who love to play with toys,
Unheard of songs I sing?"

Pretty little dears, what can they make out of

"Carmina non prius
Audita, Parnorum sacerdos,
Virginibusque, puerisque canto.
HORACE (with a difference)."

However, here is the title:—"Original Nursery Rhymes for Girls and Boys; by Alexander J. Ellis, F.R.S." There are four illustrations by Edwin J. Ellis; and stage directions for playing bo-peep with baby, &c., are given in the text.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

ABBOTT (James, M.A.) Book for Training Children, for the Mothers of England: being Strictures on Education; containing Rules to Counteract the Irregularities and Evil Propensities of Youth. Second Edition. 12mo., pp. xiii-175. Lockwood. 2s. 6d.

AINSWORTH (William Harrison). Spendthrift: a Tale. New Edition. Fcap. 8vo., sd., pp. 318. Routledge. 1s.

ALISON (Sir Archibald, Bart., D.C.L.) History of Europe. From the Fall of Napoleon in 1815 to the Accession of Louis Napoleon in 1852. Vol. 5. Eighth Thousand. Cr. 8vo., pp. ix-424. Blackwoods. 4s.

ALLNUTT (Mrs. Alfred). Day Star Prophet. A Poem. Sq. 8vo. Hurst and Blackett. 5s.

ANNE. The Married Life of Anne of Austria, Queen of France, Mother of Louis XIV., and Don Sebastian; King of Portugal. Historical Studies. From numerous Unpublished Sources, including MS. Documents in the Bibliothèque Impériale, and the Archives of Spain and Portugal. By Martha Walker Freer. Two Volumes. Second Edition. 8vo., pp. 766. Tinsley. 30s.

BARBER (George). British and London Pharmacopœias Compared. With an Abbreviated Materia Medica, giving the Chemical Symbol, Equivalent, Natural Order, Botanical Name, Habitat, Properties, and Dose of every Article in the British Pharmacopœia. Third Edition, revised and enlarged. Roy. 18mo., cl. lp., pp. 126. Simpkin. 2s. 6d.

BARNHAM (R. H.) Ingoldsby Legends; or, Mirth and Marvels. By Thomas Ingoldsby, Esquire. With Engravings. New Edition. Fcap. 4to., pp. xiv-512. Bentley. 21s.

BARRAN (Theodore H.) Tales of Filial Love. With Illustrations. Fcap. 8vo., pp. vi-256. Darton and Hodge. 3s. 6d.

BASKERVILLE (Dr. A.) Practical German Grammar, being the Shortest and Easiest Method of Acquiring a Thorough Knowledge of the German Language. 8vo., bds., pp. xiv-354. Simpkin. 6s.

BICKERSTETH (Miss). Sure Words of Promise. By the Author of "Doing and Suffering." 18mo., pp. xi-241. J. F. Shaw. 2s. 6d.

BONAR (Horatius, D.D.) Word of Promise: a Handbook to the Promises of Scripture. Fcap. 8vo., pp. xii-304. Religious Tract Society. 3s.

BOWEN (Rev. Christopher, M.A.) Heart-Work Essential to Personal Religion. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 170. Hunt. 2s. 6d.

BURNT CHILD (The). 18mo., pp. 100. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 1s.

BURTON AND M'QUEEN. The Nile Basin. Part I. Showing Tanganyika to be Ptolemy's Western Lake Reservoir. A Memoir read before the Royal Geographical Society, November 1864. With Prefatory Remarks. By Richard F. Burton, F.R.G.S. Part II. Captain Speke's Discovery of the Source of the Nile. A Review. By James M'Queen, Esq., F.R.G.S. 8vo., pp. iv-195. Tinsley. 7s. 6d.

CARPENTER (William). Comprehensive Dictionary of English Synonyms. Sixth Edition. Revised and Enlarged by Rev. W. Webster, M.A. To which is added a List of Words, Phrases, and Quotations from the Greek, Latin, French, Italian, and Spanish Languages. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 308. Tegg. 3s. 6d.

CASSELL'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF ENGLAND. From the Death of George III. to the Death of the Prince Consort. 1820-1861. Vol. IV. (Being the Eighth and Concluding Volume of the entire History.) From the Overthrow of Louis Philippe to the Death of the Prince Consort. Imp. 8vo., pp. vii-603. Cassell. 6s.

CASQUET OF GEMS (The). Choice Selections from the Poets. Fcap. 8vo., pp. xx-711. Nimmo. 3s. 6d.

CHARDENAL (C. A.) English and French Exercises for Advanced Pupils. Third Edition. Fcap. 8vo. Longman. 3s. 6d.; Key to, sd., 2s. 6d.

CHILDREN'S FRIEND (The). Vol. IV. Sm. 4to., pp. 192. Seeleys. Bds., 1s. 6d.; cl., 2s.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE (The). Edited by J. Erskine Clarke, M.A. 1864. Sq. 8vo., pp. 188. Macintosh. 8d., 1s. 2d.; cl., 2s.

CHILD'S COMPANION (The) and Juvenile Instructor. 1864. 18mo., pp. 380. Religious Tract Society. 1s. 6d.

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LANGDON (Mary). Ida May: a Story of Things Actual and Possible. Edited by an English Clergyman. New Edition. Fcap. 8vo., bds., pp. iv-323. Ward and Lock. 2s.

LATHAM. Sertum Shakspërianum subnixum aliquot aliunde excerptis floribus Latine redditum Rev. H. Latham, A.M. Fcap. 8vo., pp. xi-203. Macmillan. 5s.

LAUD (Dr. William). Private Devotions. A New Edition. Fcap. 8vo., pp. xv-270. J. H. and J. Parker. 5s.

LEISURE HOUR (The). 1864. Sup. roy., 8vo., pp. 844. Religious Tract Society. 7s.

LEVER (Charles). A Day's Ride, A Life's Romance. Third Edition. (Select Library of Fiction.) 12mo., bds., pp. 396. Chapman and Hall. 2s.

LINTON (E. Lynn). Lake Country. With Map and One Hundred Illustrations. Cr. 4to., pp. xi-351. Smith, Elder, & Co. 21s.

LITTLE BEN, THE SHEPHERD. A Tale of Australian Life in the Present Day. 18mo., pp. 103. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 1s.

LITTLE MARY'S TREASURY OF ELEMENTARY KNOWLEDGE. With Illustrations. New Edition. Sup. roy., 16mo. Ward and Lock. 5s.

LITTLE NEIGHBOURS (The); and Whitecross Farm. 18mo., pp. 117. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 1s.

LYRICS FOR LITTLE ONES. By the Compiler of "School-Room Poetry." 18mo., pp. 143. Jarrold. 1s.

MC CONNELL (Wm.) Pictures from the Streets. Coloured. Sm. 4to., bds. Routledge. 1s.

MANNING (Miss). Belforest. A Tale of English Country Life. By the Author of "Mary Powell." Two Volumes. Post 8vo., pp. 613. Bentley. 21s.

MARSHALL (Emma). Katie's Work. 18mo., pp. 151. Jarrold. 1s.

MAURICE DERING; OR, THE QUADRILATERAL. A Novel. By the Author of "Guy Livingstone." New Edition. Cr. 8vo., pp. 510. Tinsley. 6s.

MAURICE (Rev. F. D.) Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven: a Course of Lectures on the Gospel of St. Luke. Cr. 8vo., pp. xlvii-308. Macmillan. 9s.

MEDD (Rev. P. G., M.A.) Household Prayer, from Ancient and Authorized Sources, with Morning and Evening Readings from the Gospels and Epistles for each Day of the Month. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 302. Rivingtons. 4s. 6d.

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MILLS (Rev. John, F.R.G.S., M.R.A.S.) Three Months' Residence at Nablus, and an Account of the Modern Samaritans. Cr. 8vo., pp. xii+385. Murray. 10s. 6d.

MONTHS (The). Illustrated by Pen and Pencil. 8vo., pp. xvi+224. Religious Tract Society. 10s. 6d.

MOTHER'S TREASURY (The). 1864. 8vo., pp. 192. Book Society. 1s. 8d.

MULOCK. Domestic Stories. By the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," &c., &c. With Five Illustrations. New Edition. Post 8vo., pp. 383. Smith, Elder, & Co. 5s.

NELIGAN (J. Moore, M.D.) Medicines; their Uses and Mode of Administration. Sixth Edition. Including a Complete Synopsis of the British Pharmacopoeia, an Account of New Remedies, and an Appendix of Formulae. Edited by Rawdon Macnamar, M.R.I.A. 8vo., pp. xxx+758. Dublin: Fennin. Longman. 16s.

NELLIE OF TURO. A Tale from Life. New Edition. Fcap. 8vo., bds., pp. 292. Ward and Lock. 2s.

NELLY DEANE. A Story of Every-day Life. Two Volumes. Cr. 8vo., pp. 509. Nimmo. 21s.

NORMAN (Rev. R. W., M.A.) Sermons preached in the Chapel of St. Peter's College, Radley. Post 8vo., pp. vii+298. J. H. and J. Parker. 7s. 6d.

NUMBER ONE; OR, THE WAY OF THE WORLD. By Frank Foster. Third Volume. Cr. 8vo., pp. 429. Simpkin. 7s.

—First Volume. Fifth Edition. Cr. 8vo., pp. vi+400. 7s.

—Second Volume. Revised. Cr. 8vo., pp. 352. 7s.

NURSERY PLAYMATE (The). Illustrated. New Edition. 4to., bds. Low. Plain. 5s.; col., 9s.

OUR OWN FIRESIDE. Edited by the Rev. Charles Bullock. Vol. 1. Roy. 8vo., pp. vi+834. Macintosh. 7s. 6d.

PITMAN (Isaac). Manual of Phonography; or, Writing by Sound. Eleventh Edition. Fcap. 8vo., sd. Pitman. 1s. 6d.

PLEASURE BOOK (The) of Domestic Animals. Illustrated. Sm. 4to. Ward and Lock. Plain. 5s.; coloured, 7s. 6d.

POE (Edgar Allan). Tales of Mystery, Imagination, and Humour; and Poems. Illustrated. New Edition. Fcap. 8vo., bds. Ward and Lock. 2s.

PRICHARD (Iludus Thomas). How to Manage it. A Novel. Three Volumes. Post 8vo., pp. 930. Bentley. 31s. 6d.

PROSSER (Mrs.) Original Fables and Sketches. (Shilling Books for Leisure Hours.) Sq. cr. 8vo., pp. 288. Religious Tract Society. 8d., 1s.; cl., 2s.

PUSEY (Rev. E. B., D.D.) Everlasting Punishment. A Sermon preached before the University in the Cathedral Church of Christ, in Oxford. 8vo., sd., pp. 31. J. H. and J. Parker. 6d.

QUAIN'S ANATOMY. Seventh Edition. Edited by William Sharpey, M.D., F.R.S., Allen Thomson, M.D., F.R.S., and John Cleland, M.D. Part 1. Containing the Descriptive Anatomy of the Bones, Joints, and Muscles, and a Portion of the General Anatomy. Illustrated. 8vo., pp. xlviii+296. Walton and Maberly. 10s. 6d.

READE (T. S.) Christian Retirement; or, Spiritual Exercises of the Heart. Twentieth Edition. Sm. post 8vo., pp. x+453. Seeleys. 5s.

RICHEST MAN IN TOMMORTON (The), and other Stories about Riches and Happiness. With Illustrations. Roy. 18mo., pp. 178. Religious Tract Society.

ROBERT GILBERT. A Sequel to "The Missing Sovereign." 18mo., pp. 120. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 1s.

ROBERTS (Alexander, D.D.) Discussions on the Gospels. In Two Parts. Part 1. On the Language employed by our Lord and his Disciples. Part 2. On the Original Language of St. Matthew's Gospel, and on the Origin and Authenticity of the Gospels. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. 8vo., pp. xvii+571. Macmillan. 16s.

ROBINSON (Frederick Wm.) Mr. Stewart's Intentions. Three Volumes. Post 8vo., pp. 977. Hurst and Blackett. 31s. 6d.

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SHIPTON (Anna). Brook in the Way. Original Hymns and Poems. Fcap. 8vo., pp. viii+174. Morgan and Chase. 3s. 6d.

SMITH (Philip, B.A.) History of the World. From the Earliest Records to the Present Time. Vol. 2. Ancient History. From the Accession of Philip of Macedon to the Roman Conquest of Carthage and Asia. Illustrated by Maps and Plans. 8vo., pp. xi+568. Walton and Maberly. 12s. 6d.

SPORTING REMINISCENCES OF HAMPSHIRE. From 1745 to 1862. By Esop. Post 8vo., pp. xx+380. Chapman and Hall. 6s. 6d.

SURGEON (Rev. C. H.) and Baptism. Remarks on Regeneration and Sponsors, in a Letter to a Dissenting Friend, by a Student of Theology. 12mo., sd. Whitehaven: Alsop.

STEWART (Rev. Alexander). Tree of Promise; or, the Mosaic Economy a Dispensation of the Covenant of Grace. With a Biographical Notice. Post 8vo., pp. lxxx+384. Edinburgh: Kennedy. Hamilton. 6s. 6d.

STRICKLAND (Agnes). Lives of the Queens of England, from the Norman Conquest. New Edition, carefully Revised and Augmented. With Engravings. In Six Volumes. (Bohn's Historical Library.) Vol. II. Post 8vo., pp. xi+661. Bell and Daldy. 5s.

SUNDAY AT HOME (The). A Family Magazine for Sabbath Reading. 1864. Sup. roy. 8vo., pp. 844. Religious Tract Society. 7s.

SUNDAY TEACHER'S TREASURY (The). 1864. Cr. 8vo., pp. iv+372. Book Society. 4s.

SUNSHINE FOR 1864. Conducted by the Rev. W. Meynell Whittemore. 8vo. Macintosh. 1s. 6d.

TEMPLE (Ralph and Chandos). Temple Anecdotes. Invention and Discovery. Illustrated. Fcap. 8vo., pp. vi+442. Groombridge. 5s.

THOMPSON (Arthur Bailey). Victoria History of England. From the Landing of Julius Caesar, B.C. 54, to the Marriage of H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, A.D. 1863. With a Chronological Table and Summary of Remarkable Events, Maps of England, showing the Roman and Modern Names of Cities, Towns, Rivers, &c., and Engravings. Cr. 8vo., pp. 724. Routledge. 6s.

TRACT MAGAZINE (The) and Christian Miscellany. 1864. 12mo., pp. 332. Religious Tract Society. 1s. 6d.

VAMBERY (Arminius). Travels in Central Asia; being the Account of a Journey from Teheran across the Turkoman Desert, on the Eastern Shore of the Caspian to Khiva, Bokhara, and Samarcand, performed in the year 1863. With Engravings. 8vo., pp. xvii+443. Murray. 21s.

VINE MANUAL (The); or, Instructions for the Cultivation of the Grape Vine in the Stove, Vinery, and Greenhouse, also on Walls and Trellises in the Open Air and in Pots: including also its Propagation, Diseases, and the Insect Enemies with which it is infested. With Illustrations. By Contributors to "The Journal of Horticulture." Fcap. 8vo., pp. 139. Office. 2s. 6d.

WALKER (Mary Adelaide). Through Macedonia to the Albanian Lakes. With Illustrations. Roy. 8vo., pp. xii+274. Chapman and Hall. 20s.

WALMSLEY (Hugh-Mulleux). Chasseur d'Afrique, and other Tales. Post 8vo., pp. ix+293. Chapman and Hall. 10s. 6d.

WARNEFORD. The Jolly Boat; or, Perils and Disasters illustrating Courage, Endurance, and Heroism in the Merchant-Marine Service. Edited by Lieutenant Warneford, R.N. Two Volumes. Cr. 8vo., pp. viii+638. J. Maxwell. 21s.

WEIR (Harrison). Pictures of Animals and Birds. Cold. Sm. 4to., bds. Routledge. 1s.

WETHERELL. Melbourne House. By the Author of "The Wide, Wide World," &c., &c. With Engravings. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 553. Nisbet. 3s. 6d.

WILSON (John). Recreations of Christopher North. New Edition. In Two Volumes. Cr. 8vo., pp. 873. Blackwoods. 8s.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS AND WOMAN'S WRONGS. A Dying Legacy. By Le Plus Bas. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 85. Tresidder. 1s. 6d.

WOOD (Mrs. Henry). Shadow of Ashlydyat. New Edition. Post 8vo., pp. 477. Bentley. 6s.

WOODWARD (Rev. Henry, M.A.) Essays, Thoughts, and Reflections, and Letters. With a Memoir by his Son, Thomas Woodward, A.M. Fifth Edition, enlarged. With Portrait. Cr. 8vo., pp. xxxv+467. Macmillan. 10s. 6d.

YONGE. The Little Duke; Richard the Fearless. By the Author of "The Heir of Redclyffe." Fifth Edition, illustrated. Roy. 18mo., pp. 231. Macmillan. 3s. 6d.

MISCELLANEA.

WE have to announce the sudden death of Mr. Hugh Andrew Johnstone Munro, Fellow and formerly Tutor of Trinity College, Cambridge. Mr. Munro was known to scholars as one of the most accomplished and distinguished men of his time at the University, to literary men as an able and influential reviewer and writer, and to artists as one of the most successful and hard-working of amateurs. He was born in 1820, and was related to the Munros of Novar. As a versifier in Latin and Greek Mr. Munro had few rivals, and many of his compositions will be found in the "Arundines Cami." His edition of Lucretius, upon which he has laboured for several years, was only published towards the middle of last month.

THE following are extracts from a private letter, received by the last Cape Mail, from the South-African traveller Mr. Andersson. They give the particulars and extent of his recent severe misfortune. "Damara Land, Otjimbingue, Sept. 8th, 1864.—About six weeks ago I received your letter of the 27th of March. The reason of my not replying to it before is that I was at the time, so to say, in a dying state, my right leg being completely shattered by a gun-shot wound, received in a terrible engagement with the natives. It was a regular pitched battle, and lasted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We were about 4000 men engaged—Damaras, led by myself and two or three other Europeans, against Hottentots. But I am unequal to enter into details, being still very weak, and suffering at times excruciating pain. For three months I have laid flat on my back, and indite these lines in that position At no distant day I had a very flourishing prospect; but, in an unlucky moment, I befriended the Damaras, who suddenly threw off their yoke of slavery. I pitied them, and determined to stand by them. The upshot has been, notwithstanding we have beaten the Hottentots (chiefly the Africaners) in three distinct engagements, that my prospects in life have been utterly blighted. Loss upon loss has followed in rapid succession, and, to crown my misfortunes, I have become a cripple for life. But God is merciful, and I am not altogether without hope of being able to right myself, should I be restored to health."

AT the last meeting of the French Geographical Society the rumour of the death of Jules Gérard was confirmed. "The Lion-killer went to the western coast of Africa, provided with instructions from the Royal Geographical Society of London, and with the support of several members of the English nobility, for the purpose of exploring the interior of that country. He first intended to visit the Kong mountains, in Northern Guinea, which, up to that time, had never been crossed by any European. He left England at the close of 1863, and proceeded to Whydah; from thence he penetrated into the kingdom of Dahomey, whence he dated one of his last letters addressed to the Duke of Wellington. After having in vain attempted to get into the interior of Africa by way of Dahomey, he came to Sierra Leone with a letter of recommendation to M. J. Braouezec, the French consul at that place, from M. Brossard de Corbigny, the commander of the French squadron in the Gulf of Guinea. The English at Sierra Leone immediately furnished him with fresh means for his journey. An English man-of-war, commanded by Captain Cochrane, conveyed him to the neighbourhood of the river Gallinas. In a few days after his landing he lost all his baggage, and took refuge in the Sherboro country, where the French residents gave him every assistance in their power. He left the village of Begboom in the month of May or June last, but, when only at two hours' distance, was completely pillaged and obliged to return to the village, where he waited until the end of the rainy season to recommence his journey. His resources, however, being exhausted, Jules Gérard determined on returning to Sierra Leone, and he was drowned in crossing the Jong river, which had become much swollen by the rains. That river brings down an enormous quantity of mud and branches of trees of all kinds, which form floating islands in the canal of Sherboro, erroneously called a river."

THE Colenso case has been appointed to be heard before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Monday, the 12th instant.

THE survey of Jerusalem, under Lieutenant Wilson and his party of Sappers, according to Mr. Fergusson, is going on most satisfactorily. The Pasha's authority affords them complete protection, and he gives them every facility they require; so that by next summer we may hope to have as perfect a survey of Jerusalem as we have of any English city, and to know as much as can now be known of its mysterious water-supply and of the means by which its sanitary condition may be improved.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES has been instructed by the Secretary of State for War to codify and embody, in the most intelligible form, in one regulation, all the regulations, memoranda, and circulars now in force as to pay and allowances—a most arduous and responsible undertaking.

MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON, AND HODGE have just issued the catalogue of the principal portion of the library of the late Mr. Clement T. Swanston, consisting of 2034 lots of books of miscellaneous literature. The same firm will sell by auction in May next year the valuable library of the late Mr. George Offor, of Grove House, Hackney, a short obituary of whom appeared in THE READER of the 20th of August, in which allusion was made to this celebrated collection of early versions of the Scriptures, both printed and manuscript, and to the extensive assemblage of the works of Puritan divines, including the most complete series of the various editions of John Bunyan's writings known. In its peculiar way, the Offor collection rivals in interest the library of the late George Daniel, an account of the sale of which by the same auctioneers appeared in THE READER of July 30. In the advertisement in our last week's number, announcing the sale of Mr. Offor's library, the printer in error spelt the name "Offor" instead of "Offor."

MESSRS. SOUTHGATE AND BARRETT will include in their sale of Wednesday next, and ten following evenings, the remaining copies of the magnificent series of engravings after Turner, known as "The Turner Gallery," and also the remaining copies of "The Royal Gallery of Art," engravings from ancient and modern pictures in her Majesty's private collection.

IT is currently reported that the Bishop of Exeter has intimated to Ministers his willingness to resign his see if Government will divide the diocese by erecting a bishopric in Cornwall.

A BUST of Thackeray is to be placed in Westminster Abbey between those of Addison and Macaulay.

A BOOK of Yankee wit and humour, consisting, it is said, of the best jokes of "Abe Lincoln," "Major Longbow," "Sam Slick," "The Western Editor," &c., compiled by Robert Kempt, will shortly be published by Messrs. Adams and Francis of Fleet Street.

MESSRS. SMITH, ELDER, & Co. have added Miss Mulock's "Domestic Stories," by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman" to their cheap illustrated series; as also Mrs. Gaskell's most graphic tale of "Cranford." They have likewise reprinted, in the same form, "Our Old Home," by Nathaniel Hawthorne, with an admirable photographic portrait by way of frontispiece.

MESSRS. HATCHARD & Co. will publish in a few days, "Christian Certainty," by the Rev. Samuel Wainwright, of York; "Tales illustrative of the Beatitudes," by Harriet Power; "The Sponsor's Bible, a Gift to my God-child;" Stories about St. Paul, illustrative of his early life; and "The Montgomeries and their Friends."

MESSRS. WILLIAMS AND NORGATE have received from Calcutta "The Kusumanjali, or Hindu Proof of the Existence of a Supreme Being," by Udayana Acharya, with the Commentary of Hari Dasa Bhattacharya, edited and translated by E. B. Cowell; and "Nagandama," a Sanscrit drama by Dhavaka.

IN the January number of Temple Bar Miss Braddon will commence a new story, entitled "Sir Jasper's Tenant."

MESSRS. MAXWELL & Co. will publish within the next fortnight a railway novelette, called "Misses and Matrimony," by Captain W. W. Knollys. The book is in the shape of extracts from the diary of a young lady who goes out to India.

AMONGST books published in Paris during the past week we find the fifteenth volume (1841-1848) of "Mémoires de M. de la Rochefoucauld, Duc de Doudeauville;" the seventh and concluding volume of "Histoire de la Réformation Française, par F. Puaux;" and the thirteenth volume of "Histoire de la Grèce depuis les Temps les plus reculés jusqu'à la fin de la Génération

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contemporaine d'Alexandre le Grand, par G. Grote, traduit par A. L. de Sadous." There have also appeared "La Bataille de Calenzana, 14 janvier 1732, par Pierre Napoléon Bonaparte;" "Bibliographie Anecdote du Jeu des Echecs, par Jean Gay," an imposing volume of upwards of 800 pages; "Les Poètes Lauréats de l'Académie Française: Recueil des Poèmes couronnés depuis 1800, avec une Introduction (1671-1800) et des Notices Biographiques et Littéraires, par Edmond Biré et Emile Grimaud;" "La Persécution Religieuse en Angleterre sous les Successeurs d'Elisabeth, Jacques Ier, Charles Ier, Cromwell et Charles II., par l'Abbé C. J. Destombes," a volume of 552 pages, compiled chiefly from documents preserved in the English College at Douay; "L'Esthétique Anglaise, Etude sur M. John Ruskin, par J. Milsant;" "Mémoires Authentiques sur Garibaldi, Evénements de Sicile et de Naples, Caprera, Aspromonte, par Alfred d'Aunay; précédés d'un Appel aux Amis de l'Indépendance Italienne, avec une Préface et une Histoire des Origines et des Traditions Italiennes, par Pierre Dupont;" an important book on the history of Spanish America, in three large octavo volumes, published simultaneously in Spanish and French; "Annales Historiques de la Révolution de l'Amérique Latine, accompagnées de Documents à l'appui, de l'année 1808 jusqu'à la Reconnaissance par les Etats Européens de l'Indépendance de ce vast continent, par M. Charles Calvo." Also, by the same author, "Una Pagina de Derecho Internacional, o la America del Sur ante la Ciencia del Derecho de Gentes Moderno;" "Rapport fait à la Société d'Ethnographie Américaine et Orientale sur ses Travaux et sur les Progrès des Sciences Ethnographiques pendant l'année 1863, par Léon de Rosny, secrétaire;" and "Mémoire sur le premier Bassin de Dinotherium, découvert dans le département de la Haute-Garonne, par le R. P. J. M. Sanna Solaro."

AMONGST Christmas books there are "Almanach de la Société des Aqua-Fortistes pour 1865," with thirteen etchings by G. de Boret, and original poetry by Th. de Banville; "La Légende de Malborough s'en va-t-en Guerre," with twenty-one plates, by G. de Boret; and "L'Hôtel des Haricots, Maison d'Arrêt de la Garde Nationale de Paris, par Albert de Lasalle," with seventy plates, engraved by E. Morin, from the drawings of MM. Decamps, Bonaffé, Gustave Janet, Aimé Millet, Lazerge, Luminais, Slop, Féat, Gaildrau, Yvon, Traviès, Français, Célestin Nanteuil, Daumier, Cicéri, Devéria, Rambert, and others.

AMONGST recent Italian books we have to notice—"Lo Zuvavo Pontificio: Racconto storico," by P. Ant. Bresciani; "Il Tempo dei Francesi (1796-1815) Brano di Storia d'Italia," by Cesare Cantu; "Cinque Lezioni sulla Teoria Dinamica del Calore e sulle sue applicazioni all'affinità, alla pila, ai motori elettro magnetici e all'organismo vivente," by C. Matteucci; "Studii Microscopici e Clinici sui Globuli Purulenti, Sanguigni e Tubercolari," by E. de Renzi; "Catalogo degli Ucelli di Sardegna," by Tomaso Salvadori; and "Memoria sopra alcuni manicomii di Francia e Svizzera, collo schema di un Statuto fondamentale per una Società di Patrocinio pei convalescenti di malattie mentali," by Doctor G. Tonino.

THE German papers mention the death of Dr. Carl Graul, the well-known Tamil scholar, editor of "Kaivaljanavanita," a Vedanta poem, published by Messrs. Williams and Norgate in 1855. Dr. Graul also published his "Travels in the East," in German. He was for some years Director of the Missionsanstalten in Dresden and Leipzig, and at the date of his death, on the 10th ult., he was Professor of Missionswissenschaften (Missionary Knowledge) at Erlangen, where he died.

WHEN our Church Missionary Dr. Krapf visited the Roman Catholic Mission House at Khartum in 1855, Mr. Kirchner placed in his hands a MS. dictionary of the Bari language, and a vocabulary of twelve kindred dialects, spoken in the countries bordering on the White Nile. These languages, as being more or less connected with the Semitic, possess considerable interest to linguistic scholars. This Bari dictionary was in part compiled by the late Dr. Knobler and the late Dr. Zhisman, both missionaries at Khartum. From their papers Dr. F. Müller has just published "Die Sprache der Bari: ein Beitrag zur Afrikanischen Linguistik," consisting of a grammar and dictionary of the Bari language, forming a volume of eighty-four pages.

DR. KARL MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLODY'S "Count John Capodistrias (mit Benutzung handschriftlichen Materials)" is the most important work yet published on the affairs of Greece immediately preceding its formation into a separate kingdom and during its struggle for freedom.

Unfortunately the Italian documents are very incorrectly given, an incessant confusion of the letters r and s pervading them; otherwise the book is carefully printed.

PROFESSOR MOMMSEN'S edition of Pindar is completed by the publication of his "Annotationis Criticæ ad Pindari Olympias."

A NEW edition of the "Scriptores Historiæ Augustæ ab Hadriano ad Numerianum," edited by Henr. Jordan et Franc. Eyssenhardt, has just been published.

MR. ANTHONY TROLLOPE'S "Orley Farm" has been translated into German by A. Kretzschmar; and Buckle's "History of Civilization in England" has also been translated into German, by A. Ruge.

THE *Grenzboten* (No. 47) has a paper on the civil war in America, from a military point of view; the *Leipziger Zeitung* (No. 93) reviews Herm. von Friesen's German translation of "Hamlet;" the *Deutsche Jahrbücher* (13, No. 2) has an article by Fr. Kapp, "Friedrich der Grosse, England, und die Vereinigten Staaten," and a paper entitled "Preussische und Englische Städteverfassungen;" in the *Blätter für Literarische Unterhaltung* (No. 47) H. Birnbaum reviews Sir Henry Holland's "Essays on Scientific Subjects;" the *Magazin für Literatur des Auslandes* (No. 47) Tennyson's "Enoch Arden;" *Europa* (No. 47) has "Aus dem Repräsentantenhause zu Washington;" the *Berliner Revue* (39, No. 6) a third paper on the domestic life in England during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; the *Ausland* (No. 47) reviews Barth's Travels in Turkey, "Reise durch das Innere der Europäischen Türkei;" and the *Göttingen Gelehrten Anzeigen* (No. 43) Macleod's "Elements and Dictionary of Political Economy," and, in No. 44, Swayne's "Obstetric Aphorisms."

THE first number of an important work connected with the history of printing has just appeared at Brussels. "Documents Iconographiques et Typographiques de la Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique," with photo-lithographic fac-similes and explanatory letterpress by the officers of the Bibliothèque Royale, edited by the Chief Librarian. Only 200 copies are printed, and the subscription list is about to be closed.

DAVID ROBERTS, R.A.

MR. DAVID ROBERTS, R.A., was seized with an apoplectic attack on Friday afternoon while walking up Berners Street, Oxford Street, and, after being perfectly insensible for a brief period after his removal to his own house, expired about seven o'clock in the evening. David Roberts, born of poor parents in Edinburgh in 1796, was apprenticed to a house-painter. His genius, however, soon raised him above this calling, and he became favourably known as a scene-painter, and, on coming to London, was employed at the Surrey Theatre. Under Mr. Bunn's management he had an engagement at Drury Lane, where he worked for some years in conjunction with Mr. Clarkson Stanfield. Roberts's first celebrated picture was the "Departure of the Israelites from Egypt," engraved by Quilley. This appeared nearly forty years ago, and then there followed, for four years running, the "Landscape Annual," with something like five-and-thirty drawings to each volume. His "Spain" appeared in 1835, consisting of twenty-six plates, imitations of his drawings made on the spot. The next year he published his first architectural painting, the large upright "interior" of Seville Cathedral; and about the same time an "exterior," the Giralda Tower of Seville. His splendid work the "Holy Land" is that by which Mr. Roberts is most widely known. In November 1838 he was elected A.R.A., and it may be observed that both he and Mr. Stanfield were original members of the Suffolk Street Gallery, but resigned their membership, paying the fine stipulated by the regulations of the Society, in order to exhibit at the Royal Academy. Mr. Roberts's first Academy picture was a "View of Rouen Cathedral" (1826). After the publication of the "Holy Land," he visited Venice and Milan, and produced on his return some wonderful "interiors" for the Royal Academy. In February 1841 he was elected R.A. Among recent pictures of his may be noted "Sta. Maria della Salute," at Venice, which appeared in 1860. Last year he was chiefly occupied on views of London on the Thames, eight or nine in number, painted for Mr. C. Lucas, and this year two works of his graced the walls of the Royal Academy, the "Chapel in the Church at Dixmude, West Flanders," and the "Mausoleum of Augustus (the Castle of St. Angelo), from the Gardens of the Villa Barberini at Rome." When Mr. Roberts became

A.R.A. he joined the Garrick Club, and for very many years he has been the acknowledged chief of the smoking-room, coming punctually at eight and leaving as punctually at eleven. He was a pleasant and genial companion, and personally looked like a country farmer. He leaves only one daughter, who married, last year, Mr. Bicknell, of Herne Hill, Camberwell, the son of his old friend, the well-known collector.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions entertained by Correspondents. Anonymous communications cannot be inserted.]

THE POSSESSIVE AUGMENT.

To the Editor of THE READER.

SIR,—By a communication from the Secretary of the Philological Society I am informed that, at a meeting of that Society, held on Friday, Nov. 4th, it was resolved that "the Hon. Secretary be requested to call the attention of Serjeant Manning to, and ask for, an explanation of his two statements in his 'Inquiry'—

I. (p. 28) "That nearly all the A.S. possessive inflexional genitives of the earlier MS. [of Layamon] become the pronominal possessives of the latter version, when a list of 226 possessives in *es* from the latter version has been laid before the Society."

II. "That, in the same latter version, the genitive in *s*, when used in a possessive sense, was superseded by the pronoun *his* [p. 34], when he only produces 112 instances of *his* against the 226 of the possessive in *s*, as above mentioned."

It appears that at the same meeting a definitive sentence of condemnation was pronounced in the form of an order for the publication of what are unreservedly called *corrections* of those statements: "Roma locuta est, causa finita est."

In the ancient capital of the Devonshire Stannaries, at the castle of Lydford in the forest of Dartmoor, the custom is stated to have been to hang felons in the morning and try them at leisure in the afternoon. From the great roll 9 Johann., 18 B. Madox Exch. 282 T., we find that five marks were given to that prince "ne homines de Lidford habeant meliorem libertatem quam homines Exoniæ." Whether the custom called Lydford law formed part of this more excellent liberty we are not informed, but I am certain that an extension of the post-positive or posthumous-inquiry principle to London would derive no sanction from any practice now prevailing in Exeter.

As the Resolution of the Philological Society has been widely circulated, I feel that I owe it to myself to enter upon the explanations required.

The first statement of which an explanation is asked for is contained in a sentence partially set out in the Resolution, and which, unmutated and read in its entirety, is as follows:—"It will be seen that, during an interval which can scarcely have reached a century, nearly all the Anglo-Saxon possessive inflexional genitives of the earlier MS. became the pronominal possessives of the latter version."

For more than half-a-century I have been dissatisfied with the theory propounded by Dr. Johnson respecting the apostrophized *s* which that learned person regards as a formal English genitive case.

After 1855, having acquired some partial degree of leisure, I set about collecting materials for the elucidation of the views which I had formed with respect to the origin of this possessive augment.

In Sir F. Madden's edition of Layamon's Brut I happened to find what I considered as affording important support to those views. I noted down and caused to be transcribed phrases in which I observed that the genitive in *es* of the older version had in the later version been superseded by the possessive pronoun *his*. No notice was taken of phrases in which no alteration was perceived to have occurred. The genitives in such cases, even if actually seen by me at the moment, left few, if any, traces on my memory; and, when, after a considerable lapse of time, I put together the *disjecta membra* of my collection, the impression existing on my mind was distinctly this, that nearly all the possessive inflexional genitives had become pronominal possessives. Imbued by that confidence, I inadvertently said that this would be *seen*. It did not occur to me that this could obviously be no otherwise made to be *seen* than by presenting to the reader, in addition to the five tables, pp. 28-34, two other longer tables, one of which should represent such possessive genitives in *es* as had been retained in the second version, and which, as such, were

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capable of being supplanted by the pronominal possessives, and another table exhibiting those genitives in *es* which, being objective or non-possessive, were not capable of being thus supplanted. If such additional tables had been forthcoming, it would have been seen what proportion the transformed genitives which appear in the seven pages of the "Inquiry" above referred to, bear to those untransformed genitives which, being subjective and possessive, were susceptible of transformation, and also what proportion they bear to those genitives which, being objective or non-possessive, were absolutely untransformable. If it had occurred to me to cause such additional tables to be prepared, I should have steered clear of any exaggeration involved in the words "nearly all." I regret this inaccuracy. At the request of the Secretary of the Society proofs of each sheet were regularly supplied to him, but not a whisper of disapprobation was heard until, notwithstanding this palpable inconsistency, the work was completed and 400 copies were delivered over to the Society for the use of its members and others. I am sorry that any error either of inconsistency in the form of statement, or of inaccuracy in the estimate of comparative numbers, should have crept into a page of a work admitted to some extent amongst the Proceedings of the Society of which I was one of the original founders. The two tables thus inadvertently omitted would, I believe, have afforded material aid to the development of my theory. A full set of tables disclosing the progressive growth of the metamorphosis by which the Anglo-Saxon genitives used possessively are transformed into pronominal possessives, starting from the small beginnings of two cases observable in the MS. of A.D. 1200, and thence steadily rising to upwards of a hundred cases within the following century, would have marked the gradual advance more distinctly than the imperfect statement made in the "Inquiry." Had the slightest hint of this important and most obvious omission been given, I should at once have perceived the incongruity of stating that a thing would be *seen* which I did not go on to show, the omission would have been corrected, and I should have had the full benefit of the progression of the change from the twelfth century through the thirteenth and fourteenth to the seventeenth, a change which proceeded gradually, though with unequal speed, in the different dialects of the country. It is a circumstance well worthy of remark that, in the fourteenth century, the *his* of the thirteenth is most frequently reproduced in the shape of *ys* or *is*. There can be no mistake as to the origin of these syllables, inasmuch as, like *his*, they are always written as separate words, whereas the genitival termination in *es* never assumes a separate form. A Johnsonian device for withdrawing notice from this state of things has been to prefix a hyphen to the *ys* or *is*, thereby gratuitously giving to the whole the appearance of the existence of an incorporation of the actually detached syllable with the preceding substantive. The deception, I believe, has never been carried so far as to print the Anglo-Saxon genitives in *es* with a hyphen preceding the *es*. The retention or the rejection of the *h* appears to have been purely arbitrary, unless that appearance is caused by our inability to trace works to the particular dialects of the writers. One thing is obvious, that the aspirated syllable could never have formed the conclusion of a dissyllabic or trissyllabic substantive. It would have been as well to have considered these matters instead of resorting to the rule prescribed by Harpagon to the Commissaire:—"Chargez-le-bien, Monsieur, et rendez les choses bien criminelles."

The list received from the Secretary purports to be a list of 226 and more possessives in *es* or *s* from the second text of Layamon's Brut (ed. Madden, 1847), referred to by the Philological Society held on Friday, November 4th, 1864, in correction of certain statements in Serjeant Manning's "Inquiry into the Character and Origin of the Possessive Augment," pp. 28-34. A single glance at this list informed me that the title was an entire mistake. Instead of being a list of possessives, it is simply a list of genitives—a list in which possessives and non-possessives are huddled together in the most admired confusion. Finding that, of the first fifty of the so-called possessives, eight were non-possessives, I considered that it would be a mere waste of time to carry any further the examination of a document bearing so ill-chosen a title. I almost regretted that I had given directions for the purchase of a copy of Layamon. The confusion may have arisen from inability on the part of inveterate Johnsonians to realize to themselves the possibility of the existence of any difference between a genitive case and

a possessive. At all events, it is unfortunate that the mistake should have occurred in a Resolution censuring a more excusable, because less obvious error.

The second statement, in respect of which an explanation is asked for, is very far from requiring any expression of regret on my part. It runs thus:—"The following results may be gathered from the foregoing table—that, in the interval between the two versions, which may be assumed to comprise the greater part of the thirteenth century, the genitive in *es*, when used in a possessive sense, was superseded by the pronoun *his*," p. 34. I am free to confess that a person reading this passage who had never seen page 28 might not unreasonably have fancied that I believed that the Anglo-Saxon genitive in *es* had, towards the close of the thirteenth century, been as completely superseded by the pronominal possessive *his* as it had before, and in the eighteenth century been superseded by the attenuated descendant of the possessive pronoun. Still, but few persons who had, however carelessly, read page 28, even in its present unreformed state, could have arrived at such a conclusion. It is evident from the words as they stand in the "Inquiry," "The following results may be gathered from the foregoing tables," that the superseding mentioned at page 34 was a superseding co-extensive with the table referred to, whereas the Resolution, by suppressing the words "the following results may be gathered from the foregoing table," most strangely represents me as speaking of a general superseding. This wholly gratuitous insinuation is sought to be supported by the addition of the following words at the close of the Resolution:—"When he only produces 112 instances of *his* against the 226 of the possessives in *es* as above mentioned." Not only do the latter words show that the Resolution chooses to regard me as speaking of a general superseding; but it may also be inferred that it was intended by the Resolution to represent that the 112 instances had been produced by me in the face of the 226 instances subjoined to the Resolution. Until I saw the Resolution I should not have imagined that I could have been suspected of intending to represent that a general superseding of possessive genitives in *es* was meant to be predicated—a superseding that would necessarily have embraced the very genitives, few or many, in respect of which I had admitted that no change had taken place. The most determined opponent could hardly have failed to see that such an admission is evidently contained in the statement that not all, but *nearly* all, the Anglo-Saxon possessive inflexional genitives in the earlier MS. had become the pronominal possessives of the latter version.

I now take leave of this cyclone in a tea-cup.

J. MANNING, Q.A.S.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF SLANG, CANT, COLLOQUIAL, AND VULGAR WORDS.

To the Editor of THE READER.

15, Carlton Road, N.W., 26 Nov., 1864.

SIR,—The intimation expressed at the close of my last letter has probably prepared you for the following:—

DRAUGHT.—A current of cold air; as, "Do not sit there, sir; you will feel the draught from the door." It is rather a singular circumstance that this very common acceptance of the word should have escaped the notice of the lexicographers until Mr. Ogilvie inserted it in his supplement to the Imperial Dictionary.

DRIFT.—Intention—meaning—object; as, "I do not understand the drift of your remarks."*

FIZZ.—To fly(?)†

* Speaking generally, old maids may be grouped into two great classes: those who take to poodles, and those who take to tracts. Those whose yearning for something to love and pet has severed all hope of husband and children, and those who, from their forced celibacy, become a kind of Protestant nun, differing from the Roman Catholic species much as bluebottles differ from drones. Drones live an idle, gregarious, and monotonous life, in a comparatively speaking inoffensive way; but the bluebottle is always rushing about by itself, *fizzes* furiously into some poor man's cottage, buzzes incessantly and distractingly, knocks its blunt head two or three times against what it doesn't understand, and at last is off, to the unutterable relief of the nerves.—A tête-à-tête Social Science Discussion in the Cornhill Magazine, No. 59 (Nov. 1864), p. 575.

HIGH TOBYMAN.—A highwayman.

HOTTISH.—Warm or quick in temper, hasty to resent.

"Squire Tyrrel is very headstrong, and you, your honour, might be a little *hottish* or so. No, I would not have anybody quarrel for me."—Caleb Williams, by W. Godwin, p. 158.

TO MOON.—To gaze or roam about idly and stupidly.—Albert Smith uses the word frequently, but I cannot recollect where.

* See Worcester's Dictionary: "force, scope, design, tendency."—Ed.

† Our dictionaries give the signification "to make a hissing sound."—Ed.

MUM-GLASS.

"A cant word for the Monument, erected in Fish Street, near London Bridge, in commemoration of the dreadful fire in 1666, which consumed the greatest part of the city."—From Dyche and Pardon's English Dictionary. Eleventh Edition, 1760.

PINCH.—To steal.

SEA.—AT SEA.—Unable to grasp at the meaning of another's speech.

"But, Byng, have you an idea what a medical student is?" "What what is?" said I, thinking he was speaking of some little-known disease.

"A medical student—a student of medicine!"

"What he is?" I asked, still more at sea.—From a tête-à-tête Social Science Discussion in the Cornhill Magazine, No. 59 (Nov. 1864), p. 577.

SOUP-SHOP.—The meaning of this term is fully explained in the passage quoted:—

"Enough!" repeated the guard, "may be it's too much! I don't like to think bad of an old acquaintance—but there's loads of plate at the Abbey, and I ain't such a greenhorn as not to know that there are plenty of *soup-shops* in London—thof I never heard of one in Lombard Street afore!" To the uninitiated of our readers, it may be as well to explain that, by the term *soup-shop*, the speaker meant those convenient houses where burglars and thieves dispose of any silver or gold plate which may fall into their hands. In such establishments the melting-pots are always kept ready—the price not being paid till the recognition of the plunder is no longer possible.—From "Woman and her Master," by J. F. Smith, chapter cxxxv., in the London Journal, No. 491, vol. xix., p. 322.

With reference to my last letter, I was aware that Worcester inserts the word "Muggy" in his dictionary; but I brought it forward merely as a colloquialism, and "Noddle" also, under the impression that both might be acceptable to Mr. Hotten. May I suggest the propriety of adding the word "Colloquial" to the heading under which these communications appear?—Yours, &c., EDWARD VILES.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Hertford, Nov. 26, 1864.

SIR,—Mr. Viles furnishes a list of words which he says are not to be found in the "Slang Dictionary," but which he treats as "slang, cant, and vulgar words." Among these are "dowdy," used in the sense of *slovenly* in Charles Dickens's latest work, "Our Mutual Friend," and "muggy," used to describe a state of the atmosphere with which most of the inhabitants of this island are familiar.

I do not know by what process Mr. Viles arrives at the conclusion that these are slang or cant terms. They are of long use, may be found in our best dictionaries, and have as good a right to be there as any other words. I find "dowdy" in Johnson's Dictionary (the edition of 1773) applied to "an awkward, ill-dressed, inelegant woman;" and Webster uses the word in the same sense, citing the same authorities (Shakespeare, Dryden, and Gay). Webster derives the word from the Scotch "daw" (a sluggard), from whom, probably, also our "dawdle." The elementary meaning is "slowness," "sluggishness," from whence carelessness and slovenliness in dress, and manner of going about things. Gay's "dowdy" was a helpless creature, unskilled in housewifery—Shakespeare's, an awkward, lolloping, draggle-tailed Dido; and Mr. Dickens's is a slovenly girl who cannot even put the saltcellar straight upon the dinner-table. The same meaning is discernible in each use of the word. Therefore neither in itself nor in the sense in which it is used by Mr. Dickens is "dowdy" to be accounted slang.

"Muggy" is also a good English word. You say, in an editorial note, "Worcester inserts the word in his dictionary." I find it in Johnson and Webster, and in Bailey's old dictionary. Bailey gives the meaning, "inclined to be musty, or to smell so," and derives it from the Latin *mucosus*. Johnson treats it as "corrupted from mucky, for damp," and as signifying "moist, damp, mouldy;" but it probably came more directly from the Danish "mug" (mould, soil), or from the Welsh "mwg" (smoke). Webster thinks it may come from the Welsh "mwcan" (a cloud of fog), which not inaccurately describes that state of the weather we are accustomed to call "muggy."

Your illustration of the term "job lot" seems to me a better one than that given by Mr. Viles; but there is another, which may possibly represent an older use. You are aware that at auction sales the things to be sold are divided into portions which are always called "lots." Some of these portions include a variety of articles which it is not thought worth while to offer for sale singly. The articles have no relation to each other. A coal-scuttle, a pair of steps, a box of violin strings, a dark lantern, a birch-broom, and half-a-dozen odd volumes of books are not unfrequently huddled together in a "lot," which nobody except a broker in some little back street would think of buying. These are always called "job lots," because the articles included in them are not resold in the state in which they were purchased, but *jobbed* away, or, in other words, sold to different customers, as opportunity may offer.—Yours, &c. S. H. EBBINGTON.

SCIENCE.

ROYAL SOCIETY ANNIVERSARY.

THE Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society was held on Wednesday last, a large number of Fellows being present to witness the presentation of the medals and to hear the President's annual Address. It was a source of universal regret that the medallist—that is, the Copley medallist of the year—Mr. Charles Darwin, was prevented by sickness from attending.

Major-General Sabine's Address, which is too long to reproduce *in extenso*, referred first to the progress recently made in the Catalogue of the Titles of Scientific Memoirs contained in the scientific periodicals in all languages from 1800 to 1863, which is now being compiled by the Royal Society. The various Foreign Academies are rendering all assistance, and the MSS., when completed, will be handed over to Her Majesty's Government, to be printed at the public charge, a certain number of copies being presented to scientific institutions at home and abroad, in the name of the British Government and of the Royal Society, and the remainder of the impression being offered for sale at the cost of paper and printing only, and the proceeds applied towards the discharge of the expense incurred in the printing. No pecuniary return is looked for on the part of the Society. The expense hitherto incurred by the Society amounts to about £1400; and possibly £300 or £400 more will be required.

After passing in review the many important papers which have recently appeared in the Philosophical Transactions, he referred to the pendulum observations to be made in India, the importance of which was foreshadowed in the Address last year. Colonel Walker has directed that the Indian Survey should be provided with instruments for determining the absolute values of the three magnetic elements at the Indian stations. We may thus hope to obtain a further investigation of the (apparent) systematic anomaly in the direction of the lines of magnetic force in the central parts of India, which is so remarkable a feature in the admirable magnetic survey of that portion of the British dominions executed by the Messrs. de Schlagintweit.

"The authorities in the colonies of Mauritius and Victoria have decided on the establishment of magnetical observatories supported by Colonial funds, to be equipped with similar instruments to those at Kew, and to be conducted on the system which is there exemplified.

"We have learnt with satisfaction from Stockholm that the Swedish Expedition to Spitzbergen has returned from the second year of a survey preliminary to the measurement of an arc of the meridian, and that the result has been that no doubt is entertained of the practicability of the measurement of an arc of at least 3°, with a possibility of further extension. The report of the completion of the preliminary survey is to be published in the early part of the winter; and the summer of 1865 is looked forward to for the commencement of the arc itself.

"The Copley Medal has been awarded to Charles Darwin, Esq., F.R.S., for his important researches in Geology, Zoology, and Botanical Physiology.

"In 1832 Captain FitzRoy, commissioned by the Admiralty to proceed in command of the *Beagle* on a voyage of survey to the Southern Hemisphere, liberally offered, in the interest of science, to give up half his cabin to any qualified naturalist who would volunteer to serve on the Expedition, no remuneration being attached to the duty. Mr. Charles Darwin, then a ripe student at Cambridge, ardently devoted to the study of natural history, having heard of the offer—like Sir Joseph Banks, in the earlier of Cook's voyages—eagerly came forward as a volunteer. The voyage of the *Beagle* extended over the consecutive years from 1832 to 1836, and embraced regions presenting such fertile fields for research in the volcanic, coral, and other islands of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans that the results of his observations actively occupied, after his return, ten years of Mr. Darwin's time in publication, and have since mainly suggested and determined the most prominent of his latest labours. His scientific works and memoirs have included a very wide range of subjects, which may be classified under the heads of Geology, Zoology, Physiological Botany, Physical Geography, and Genitive Biology, each of which he has enriched with important original contributions. The award of the Copley Medal has been founded on Mr. Darwin's researches in the three first-named branches of science.

"Geology.—Mr. Darwin has been pre-eminently successful in the solution of a great problem in

physical geography, and in applying it to the explanation of geological phenomena, by his important work on the Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs, which appeared in 1842. The successive voyages of many eminent navigators had shown that vast tracts in the deepest parts of the Pacific and Indian oceans were studded with circular groups of coral islets enclosing lagoons, and that long detached reefs of the same formation flanked lines of coast in a nearly unbroken stretch of about 1000 miles. The reefs and islands had been carefully mapped and surveyed; and the different forms exhibited by them had been accurately classified under the names of "Atoll Islands," "Encircling Reefs," "Barrier Reefs," and "Fringing or Shore Reefs." Eminent naturalists had observed the habits and mode of growth of the zoophytes in the most favourable localities; and the comparatively shallow depths at which the reef-building species live had been determined. But no satisfactory explanation of the phenomena was arrived at—why atolls assumed their peculiar form, and why barrier reefs included broad lagoon channels between them and the contiguous coasts. Some explanations were indeed propounded, but were manifestly inadequate to meet all the conditions.

"The subject was in this state when Mr. Darwin took it up. Combining careful observations upon coral reefs and atolls with reflections upon the range and distribution of volcanic islands, he divided the area of the Pacific and Indian oceans into tracts of elevation and depression. All the coral phenomena of atolls, encircling reefs, and barrier reefs were accounted for upon the supposition of a long protracted but gradual subsidence under the ocean of large areas of land, admitting the coral formation to grow up whilst its foundation sunk down; while fringing reefs were explained as appertaining to areas of elevation where the land had risen up or was progressively rising. On this view the apparently discordant facts ranged themselves in perfect harmony. Fringing reefs were thus converted into barrier reefs, and encircling reefs into atolls, the instant the last particle of land sinks beneath the ocean. Representing on a map the two classes of facts by different colours, it was shown that active volcanoes are absent in the region of atolls and barrier reefs, while they abound in areas of coral fringes and of elevation.

"Mr. Darwin's researches were received by naturalists with lively satisfaction, as fixing an era in the history of the investigation, and as contributing one of the most important illustrations which geology had received since it had been shaped into a science. A flood of light was thus thrown upon the ancient calcareous formations which enter so largely into the composition of the superficial crust of the earth, and something like a definite idea was arrived at respecting areas of depression and elevation.

"In addition to his researches upon coral reefs Mr. Darwin has made numerous contributions to geology, both in the descriptive and theoretical divisions of the science. As belonging to the former class may be cited his admirable 'Journal of Researches,' containing observations on the geology of the various countries visited during the voyage of the *Beagle*; notes during a survey of the east and west coasts of South America, with a transverse section of the Cordilleras between Valparaiso and Mendoza; geological observations on South America, published as a separate work in 1846; geological observations on the Volcanic Islands, visited during the voyage of the *Beagle*, with brief notices of the geology of Australia, New Zealand, and the Cape of Good Hope, also published as a separate work; on a remarkable bar of sandstone off Pernambuco; on the deposits containing extinct mammalia in the neighbourhood of the Plata; on the geology of the Falkland Isles; on the distribution of erratic blocks in South America.

"In theoretical or speculative geology may be cited his memoir on the connexion of certain volcanic phenomena in South America, and on the formation of mountain-chains and volcanoes as the effect of continental elevations; his memoirs on the Parallel Roads in Glenroy; on the effects produced by the ancient glaciers of Carmarthenshire; on the transport of erratic boulders from a lower to a higher level; and on the origin of saliferous deposits. From the ossiferous superficial deposits in the neighbourhood of the Plata Mr. Darwin brought home an important collection of fossil mammalian remains, which formed the subject of a separate volume by Professor Owen. In his memoir 'On the Formation of Mould,' as the result of the digestive process of the common earthworm, he furnished a fresh

and instructive illustration of the large effects which are produced in the organic kingdom by the continued agency of apparently insignificant instruments.

"The present occasion admits of little more than a bare enumeration of these labours, which are stamped throughout with the impress of the closest attention to minute details and accuracy of observation, combined with large powers of generalization. The Geological Society of London signalized its estimate of their importance by the award of a Wollaston Medal.

"Zoology.—In zoological science Mr. Darwin's eminent merits were to some extent acknowledged ten years ago by the award of a Royal Medal. On that occasion the zoological work that was most particularly distinguished was his monograph on the Cirripeds, a class of animals whose life, history, structure, and classification had previously been involved in the greatest obscurity and confusion. Notwithstanding the difficulties attending the study of these animals, and the extraordinary anomalies presented in their structure, habits, and affinities, Mr. Darwin was successful, as the result of unwearied labour and patience, and of the exercise of the most acute and accurate observation, in clearing up all that was obscure, and in disclosing for the first time numerous facts of the utmost interest and importance. But, since the principal points contained in this monograph have been already detailed in the Proceedings of the Royal Society on the occasion referred to, it is needless here to recapitulate them. It will be sufficient to remark that the justness of the estimation then placed upon Mr. Darwin's labours has since been completely confirmed by the concurrent voice of all zoologists, and that the monograph on the Cirripeds is universally acknowledged to be a model of what such a work should be, and as fully entitling its author to a place in the foremost rank of zoological observers and authors. His labours in the same department were completed by the publication, about the same time, of two monographs on the Fossil Cirripeds of Great Britain, published by the Palaeontological Society. . . .

"In other departments of zoology Mr. Darwin's labours, though not given in the same complete form as in the monographs, have been numerous and important. They are distinguished by the same extent and variety of knowledge, the same scrupulous fidelity, accuracy, and minuteness of observation, and by the sagacity with which the most important generalizations have been drawn. Amongst these contributions should more especially be noticed the observations on the distribution and habits of the animals described in the 'Zoology of the Voyage of the *Beagle*,' and in the 'Journal of Researches' in the course of that voyage, in which most interesting and justly popular work we find first distinctly enunciated the important 'law of the succession of Types,' or the law that existing animals have a close relation with the extinct species found in the same regions. Nor amongst the many other weighty and interesting remarks contained in this volume should notice be omitted of those which have reference to the common assumption that the presence of the remains of large animals necessarily implies that the country inhabited by them must have possessed a luxuriant vegetation. The fallacy of this assumption is plainly shown by Mr. Darwin, and the importance of his correction of a prevalent error of this kind can hardly be over-rated.

"In his most recent work 'On the Origin of Species,' although opinions may be divided or undecided with respect to its merits in some respects, all will allow that it contains a mass of observations bearing upon the habits, structure, affinities, and distribution of animals, perhaps unrivalled for interest, minuteness, and patience of observation. Some amongst us may perhaps incline to accept the theory indicated by the title of this work, while others may perhaps incline to refuse, or at least to remit it to a future time, when increased knowledge shall afford stronger grounds for its ultimate acceptance or rejection. . . .

"Botanical Physiology.—Mr. Darwin's first botanical work, 'On the various Contrivances by which British or Foreign Orchids are fertilized by Insects, and on the Effects of Inter-crossing,' marks an epoch in the history of physiological botany, and, taken in all its bearings, is, perhaps, the most masterly treatise on any branch of vegetable physiology that has ever appeared. The objects which the author had in view in entering on a comprehensive study of the sexual system of Orchideæ were to show that the contrivances by which they are fertilized are as varied and almost as perfect as any of the most beautiful adaptations of the animal kingdom, and that these

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contrivances have for their main object the fertilization of one flower by the pollen of another. In pursuance of this object Mr. Darwin set himself to investigate, first, the structure and development of the flower of living specimens of nearly every British species; secondly, to observe how impregnation was naturally effected in each; thirdly, to make a similar structural investigation of the principal exotic forms; and, fourthly, to ascertain by experiment the method by which these also are in all probability fertilized. To these investigations Mr. Darwin brought all the resources of a most skilful microscopic dissector, of an unwearied and exact observer, of a sagacious experimentalist fertile in resources, of an entomologist versed in the structure and habits of insects, and of an excellent judgment in interpreting obscure phenomena, and drawing from them correct conclusions.

"The result is a work no less remarkable for the novelty of its facts, and for the importance of their bearing, than for its being the first which correlates the structure with the functions of the floral organs of one of the largest and most conspicuous of the families of plants. It would not be difficult to justify this strong encomium by examples of great interest taken from the work itself, but it would be incompatible with the limits of this Address; suffice it therefore to say that the general conclusion to which Mr. Darwin arrives is, that all the forms, even the most grotesque, which the floral organs of Orchids possess are directly and obviously of use, and that every structural and physiological modification, however minute, tends, with scarcely an exception, to ensure the fertilization of the ovules of one plant by the pollen of another.

"Mr. Darwin's next contribution to physiological botany is entitled 'On the Two Forms, or Dimorphic Conditions, in the Species of *Primula*, and in their remarkable Sexual Relations.' The phenomena of there being two distinct forms of flower in the genus *Primula* has long been familiar to naturalists, but the real nature of the difference between them, and of their respective functions, had not occurred to anyone. Mr. Darwin first suspected that the relations between the forms might be sexual, and he has since, with consummate skill, incontrovertibly proved this to be the case. By a most searching examination of a vast number of specimens of each form, in cultivated varieties as well as in species, he found that in all the two forms presented, in their stigmatic surfaces, ovules, and pollen, constant differences, unbroken by a single instance of transition between the distinct forms. By experiments continued for several years he proved that in this genus complete fertility is only obtained by impregnating one form by the pollen of the other, each species of *Primula* being divided into two sets or bodies, which cannot be called distinct sexes, for both are hermaphrodite; yet they are so in a certain sense, for they require reciprocal union to effect perfect fertility. This remarkable fact has as yet no known parallel. The cross-impregnation is effected by insects, the structure of insect and flower being such that one form cannot by this means be impregnated either by its own pollen or by that of a flower of its own form.

"In a subsequent paper Mr. Darwin has shown that in a species of the genus *Linum*, which is also dimorphic, whilst the pollen in the two forms is absolutely undistinguishable microscopically, and the stigmas differ but slightly and not in any apparently important respect, the pollen of one form is ineffectual when placed on the stigma of its own flower, but acts immediately upon that of the other form. The generally received idea, that the impregnation of plants may be effected indifferently by wind or by insects, is shown to be fallacious, plants being structurally adapted for the one or the other, and not indifferently for either.

"He has similarly investigated a still more complicated case in the common *Lythrum salicaria* of our ditches, which, as regards its flowers, is trimorphous, there being three instead of two sexual forms, differing in the relative lengths of their two series of stamens and of their styles. In estimating the novelty and value of Mr. Darwin's botanical discoveries we should not overlook that they have all been obtained by the study of some of the most familiar and conspicuous of our native plants, and some of the best known and easily procured cultivated exotics.

"The Council have awarded a Royal Medal to Warren De La Rue, Esq., for his Observations on the Total Eclipse of the Sun in 1860, and for his improvements in Astronomical Photography."

The President remarked, "Among those who have successfully cultivated this comparatively new department of astronomy, it may, perhaps, be fairly said that Mr. De La Rue stands pre-eminent. It is not that he claims any priority in making this application of the photographic art. Several astronomers have made experiments in celestial photography, and some of these earlier than Mr. De La Rue; but no one, I believe, has devoted himself so systematically and assiduously to overcome the many difficulties which are met with in the process; and no one has been so successful in the results which he has obtained, particularly in regard to the sun and moon, his photographic pictures of which bodies are sufficiently delicate in their details to admit of the most precise measurement. No one who has not seen Mr. De La Rue's pictures of the moon can form an idea of their exquisite sharpness and beauty of definition. No doubt part of the superiority of these pictures is due to his employment of a reflecting telescope of exquisite defining power, the large mirror of which was figured by his own hands, and by peculiar machinery of his own contrivance. Thus he entirely avoided those imperfections of the actinic image which arise from outstanding chromatic dispersion in the very best refractors, especially when, as usual, they are achromatized for the luminous and not for the chemical rays of the spectrum.

"The photographs obtained in the solar eclipse of 1860 have been discussed by Mr. De La Rue in a most elaborate paper in the Philosophical Transactions for 1862, forming the Bakerian Lecture. In this memoir, and in his reports on the progress of Celestial Photography in the volumes of the British Association for 1859 and 1861, Mr. De La Rue has fully described his processes and instruments, and has thus deepened the feelings of obligation to him, by giving others the benefit of his long experience in the art, though even with this guidance no one can hope to attain to great proficiency in its practice without time, patience, and perseverance.

"The Council have awarded a Royal Medal to Mr. Jacob Lockhart Clarke for his researches on the intimate structure of the Spinal Cord and Brain, and on the development of the Spinal Cord, published in five memoirs in the Philosophical Transactions, and in other writings. . . . One of those who, in former times, most signally advanced this department of anatomical knowledge was an early Fellow of this Society—Dr. Thomas Willis, whose celebrated treatise on the Anatomy of the Brain was illustrated by drawings from the pencil of no less eminent an Associate than Sir Christopher Wren, also a Fellow, and afterwards President of the Society.

"One of the principal subjects of Mr. Clarke's investigation was the grey substance which forms the interior part of the spinal cord. The figure which this part assumes in different regions of the cord has been more exactly described and delineated and the nature and arrangements of its constituent elements more fully examined and more clearly exposed than heretofore. Two columns or tracts, composed of nerve-cells, and previously undescribed, have been shown to exist in the grey substance through nearly the whole length of the cord, and two others in a shorter extent. Moreover, Mr. Clarke was, as we believe, the first to point out that the central canal of the spinal cord is lined with epithelium, and he certainly first explained the true nature of the tissue immediately surrounding the canal, which had previously been mistaken for nervous substance.

"The course and connexions of the fibres of the nerve-roots after they enter the substance of the spinal cord have, as yet, been by no means fully made out; but Mr. Clarke's investigations have shed considerable light on that obscure point of anatomy, and, amongst other observations of moment, he has shown that a part of the posterior or sentient roots take, in the first instance, a downward direction—an unlooked-for anatomical fact, which was afterwards strikingly shown by Brown-Sequard to be in harmony with the result of physiological experiments."

"The structure of the medulla oblongata, and the relation of its several tracts or divisions to the columns of the spinal cord, as well as the intimate nature of the grey masses which are there super-added, and their connexion with special sets of fibres and nerve-roots, have received fresh elucidation from the keen scrutiny and sagacious interpretation of Mr. Clarke. Mr. Clarke has also investigated the mode of the development of the spinal cord in the fetus.

"The Council have awarded the Rumford Medal to Professor John Tyndall, F.R.S., for his researches on the Absorption and Radiation of Heat by Gases and Vapours.

"Previously to the researches of Professor Tyndall hardly anything had been done in the way of an experimental determination of the absorption of radiant heat by gases and vapours. Melloni had inferred from his experiments that atmospheric air is sensibly diathermanous in a length such as that of an ordinary room, while Dr. Franz came to the conclusion that a column of air only three feet long absorbed more than three-and-a-half per cent. of the heat-rays from an argand lamp. The discrepancy of these results gives some view of the difficulty of the experiments; but it is only by the perusal of the earlier part of Professor Tyndall's first memoir on the subject that the skill and patience can be appreciated with which the various sources of error were one by one detected and eliminated by him." After referring to Professor Tyndall's memoirs, General Sabine remarked:—

"It may serve to show the difficulties which beset the inquiry, arising from the interference of disturbing causes, to state that two such experienced physicists as Professor Tyndall and Professor Magnus of Berlin should have arrived at, and long maintained, opposite conclusions respecting the absorption of radiant heat by air, and the influence of aqueous vapour. This led Professor Tyndall, in a third memoir, to consider more especially the case of aqueous vapour, which he had already treated in his two former papers. The result is that his conclusions have been so confirmed by a system of checks and counter-checks, and by the complete harmony which they present with what we know to be true in other cases, that it seems impossible to doubt their correctness.

"The conclusion that the chief absorbing action of the atmosphere on non-luminous heat is due to the aqueous vapour which it contains has numerous and important bearings on meteorology, and has been applied by Professor Tyndall to the explanation of some phenomena which appear hitherto to have been imperfectly understood.

"In a fifth memoir, which may be expected to be published in a few days, he examines, among other things, the penetrative power of the heat radiated from various flames, and shows that such heat is absorbed with especial facility by the gases which result from the combustion.

"Professor Tyndall concludes from his researches that, as a general rule, the opacity of a substance with respect to radiant heat from a source of comparatively low temperature increases with the chemical complexity of its molecule; and he has given some remarkable instances in which the law is found to be true. Whatever may be thought of our ability to explain the law in the present state of our knowledge respecting the molecular constitution of bodies, the law itself is in any case highly remarkable."

CARINTHIAN LAKE-DWELLINGS.

AT the meeting of the Imperial Academy of Vienna on the 6th August last Professor Hochstetter gave a brief sketch of the results of his investigations of the lakes of Carinthia and Carniola in search of traces of pile-dwellings. In spite of the unfavourable circumstances presented by the great excess of water in the lakes during the past summer, Professor Hochstetter found evidences of pile-dwellings in four Carinthian lakes—namely, in those of Wörd, Keutschach, Rauschelen, and Ossiach—in which, at certain points, pile-works, potsherds, hazel-nuts, bones, and other objects were obtained. In the Keutschacher lake, which was the only one particularly investigated, traces of piles were visible nearly in the middle of the lake, where the water is usually from four to six feet, but was this summer at least ten or twelve feet in depth. From the midst of these piles the dredge brought up various objects, such as half-carbonized fragments of nutshells, pieces of burnt clay and incrustated charcoal, and numerous fragments of shells of *Anodonta*. Subsequently M. T. Ullepitsch of Klagenfurt obtained from the same spot a great quantity of black potsherds, with peculiar zigzag markings and half-burnt pieces of clay, which appear to have been pressed in between round sticks; he also procured a round plate of mica-schist, a whetstone, and a fragment of stag's-horn. Professor Hochstetter has no doubt that we have here remains of very ancient date, and that, by carrying on operations at the proper season, these pile-dwellings, with their peculiar utensils and other objects of the stone and bronze periods, will be discovered both in the Keutschacher lake and in the other localities indicated by him just as in the Swiss lakes.

He also mentions that, both in Carinthia and Carniola, antiquities in stone and bronze have already been found, and indeed M. von Gallenstein of Klagenfurt reports the discovery during the past summer, near Heidach, of a very interesting series of black earthen vessels, with a great number of remarkably well-preserved Celtic bronze articles (bowls, sickles, paring-knives, chisels, hair-pins, &c). Objects of still older date were found seven years ago by M. Gurniz in the Laibacher marsh, which in early times was the bed of a lake.

The reported discoveries of pile-dwellings on the White lake (Carinthia) and the Zirknitzer lake (Carniola) are regarded by Professor Hochstetter as destitute of foundation. The piles in the former are about 8000 in number, and stand in groups of from twenty to sixty near the shore, rising from a depth of ten or fifteen feet, and projecting three or four feet above the water. They were driven for the purpose of the trout fishery, which was extensively carried on in the White lake up to the seventeenth century. The report of the existence of pile-dwellings in the Zirknitzer lake was founded upon a remark of the old Carniolan chronicler Valvasor (1689), who speaks of the remains of piles existing in the south-eastern bay of that lake. Professor Hochstetter visited the spot, and convinced himself of the correctness of the explanation given by Valvasor himself—namely, "that formerly a bridge passed over the lake at that place."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

We laid before our readers some time ago a correspondence which had arisen from General Sabine's suggestion to combine pendulum observations with the great Indian Survey, stating that the suggestion of the President of the Royal Society has been approved by the Secretary of State for India, and that the Kew Observatory of the British Association had been selected as the base station for the Indian experiments. The absolute length of the second pendulum at Kew is about to be determined, and, as the pendulums to be swung are the same which General Sabine used in his scientific travels, and which also served in Mr. Airy's Harton experiments, the observations in Kew will be preceded by an investigation into the present value of the different constants of these pendulums. A separate part of the Observatory has been appropriated for these experiments and supplied with every convenience for conducting them with the utmost safety. A transit instrument is brought into immediate connexion with the clock which serves for the observation of the coincidences, and, by similar precautions with regard to all other sources of errors in pendulum observations, care has been taken to render these determinations at Kew a true test of the advanced state of this branch of physical science. We shall lay before our readers an account of the methods followed in these investigations at some future time.

THE latest novelties in the department of the Biological Sciences are contained in a passage of a speech delivered before a meeting of the "Society for Increasing the Endowments of Small Livings" by the Right Hon. the Member for Bucks on Friday last. "What is the question? It is now placed before society with, I might say, a glib assurance which to me is astonishing. The question is, Is man an ape or an angel? Now, I am on the side of the angels." That Mr. Disraeli should be astonished at "glib assurance" is wonderful; that he should have discovered some scientific theorist whose wild dreams have led him to conceive of man as an angel is still more wonderful; but his belief that he is himself "on the side of the angels" is most wonderful of all. Is it certain which of the suggested alternatives as to Mr. Disraeli's own "Place in Nature" the late Sir Robert Peel, after being subjected to three hours of purely malicious chatter and gesticulation, would have adopted?

THE 6th of September is the day fixed for the opening meeting at the British Association's Birmingham gathering.

OUR attention has been called to a proposition to publish a Naturalists' Directory in connexion with the quarterly numbers of the Proceedings of the Essex Institute (U.S.) It is proposed to publish the name, address, and special department of study of every naturalist in the world whose address can be obtained, under such a classification as will be most convenient for reference. Such a cosmopolitan directory would certainly be of great value, and its promoters should meet with every encouragement. Arrangements have been made to obtain the material for the

completion of the work as regards foreign naturalists through the Smithsonian Institution, but this should not prevent our English naturalists from sending their name and address, and the department in which they are engaged, to Mr. F. W. Putnam, Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.

We learn from the *Geological Magazine* that the palæontological collection of the British Museum has lately been enriched by some fine remains of Thecodont Reptiles from the Upper Keuper Sandstone near Stuttgart, consisting of a cranium, a lower jaw, several vertebrae, dermal scutes, and limb bones of *Belodon Kapff*, von Meyer. These specimens are remarkably perfect. The lower jaw measures two feet three inches in length; both rami are perfect, and have nearly their whole series of teeth *in situ*. There are also portions of the upper jaw, and an entire right ramus of the lower jaw of *Belodon Plieningeri*, von Meyer. There has also been received, from Barrow-on-Soar, a specimen of *Ichthyosaurus tenuirostris*, showing a large extension of the dermal covering upon the surface of the slab. It seems to indicate, from the outline, that these reptiles had a prominent ridge upon the dorsal surface, similar in appearance to that which the males of the pond-newt (*Triton cristatus*) present in spring. A specimen with a considerable portion of skin attached, also from Barrow, came into the possession of the late Dr. Mantell, who, unfortunately not recognising its real nature, chiselled it nearly all away in developing the bones. Some fragments of the skin may, however, still be observed upon the specimen.

We learn from the *Medical Times* that the inspectors of the Cambridge University Museum have just reported to the Senate that the collection is in an excellent condition. The catalogue of the physiological series commenced by Mr. J. W. Clark has been continued by Dr. Drosier, who hopes to be able to complete it during the present academical year. A large addition has lately been made to the collection, including the skeleton of an adult male gorilla. A very interesting series of corals, starfishes, echini, and other invertebrate animals, collected and prepared by the late Mr. Lucas Barrett, has been placed in the Museum. It is hoped that these specimens will form the nucleus of a collection of invertebrata, which is much needed, and will also perpetuate the memory of a man whose early death in the prosecution of scientific research was so much deplored.

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLISH VERSUS ALPINE GEOLOGY.

Denmark Hill, 29th Nov.

I SCARCELY know what reply to make, or whether it is necessary to reply at all, to the letter of Mr. Jukes in your last number. There is no antagonism whatever between his views and mine, though he seems heartily to desire that there should be; and, with no conceivable motive but to obtain some appearance of it, suppresses the latter half of the sentence he quotes from my letter. It is true that he writes in willing ignorance of the Alps, and I in unwilling ignorance of the Wicklow Hills; but the only consequent discrepancy of thought or of impression between us is, that Mr. Jukes, examining (by his own account) very old hills, which have been all but washed away to nothing, naturally, and rightly, attributes their present form, or want of form, to their prolonged ablations: while I, examining new and lofty hills, of which, though much has been carried away, much is still left, as naturally and rightly ascribe a great part of their aspect to the modes of their elevation. The Alp-bred geologist has, however, this advantage, that (especially if he happen at spare times to have been interested in manual arts) he can hardly overlook the effects of denudation on a mountain-chain which sustains Venice on the delta of one of its torrents, and Antwerp on that of another; but the English geologist, however practised in the detection and measurement of faults filled by cubes of fluor, may be pardoned for dimly apprehending the structure of a district in which a people, strong enough to lay the foundation of the liberties of Europe in a single battle, was educated in a fissure of the Lower Chalk.

I think, however, that, if Mr. Jukes can succeed in allaying his feverish thirst for battle, he will wish to withdraw the fourth paragraph of his letter, and, as a general formula, even the scheme which it introduces. That scheme, sufficiently accurate as an expression of one cycle of geological action, contains little more than was known to all leading geologists five-and-twenty years ago, when I was working under Dr. Buckland at Oxford;

and it is so curiously unworthy of the present state of geological science, that I believe its author, in his calmer moments, will not wish to attach his name to an attempt at generalization at once so narrow, and so audacious. My experience of mountain-form is probably as much more extended than his, as my disposition to generalize respecting it is less; and, although indeed the apparent limitation of the statement which he half quotes, (probably owing to his general love of denudation) from my last letter, to the chain of the Alps, was intended only to attach to the words "quite visibly," yet, had I myself expanded that statement, I should not have assumed the existence of a sea, to relieve me from the difficulty of accounting for the existence of a lake;—I should not have assumed that all mountain-formations of investiture were marine; nor claimed the possession of a great series of stratified rocks without inquiring where they were to come from. I should not have thought "even more than one" an adequate expression for the possible number of elevations and depressions which may have taken place since the beginning of time on the mountain-chains of the world; nor thought myself capable of compressing into Ten articles, or even into Thirty-nine, my conceptions of the working of the Power which led forth the little hills like lambs, while it rent or established the foundations of the earth; and set their birth-seal on the forehead of each, in the infinitudes of aspect and of function which range between the violet-dyed banks of Thames and Seine, and the vexed Fury-Tower of Cotopaxi.

Not but that large generalizations are, indeed, possible with respect to the diluvial phenomena, among which my antagonist has pursued his—(scarcely amphibious?)—investigations. The effects of denudation and deposition are unvarying everywhere, and have been watched with terror and gratitude in all ages. In physical mythology they gave tusk to the Grææ, claw to the Gorgons, bull's frontlet to the floods of Aufidus and Po. They gave weapons to the war of Titans against Gods, and lifeless seed of life into the hand of Deucalion. Herodotus "rightly spelled" of them where the lotus rose from the dust of Nile and leaned upon its dew; Plato rightly dreamed of them in his great vision of the disrobing of the Acropolis to its naked marble; the keen eyes of Horace, half poet's, half farmer's (albeit unaided by theodolite), recognised them alike where the risen brooks of Vallombrosa, amidst the mountain-clamours, tossed their champed shingle to the Etrurian sea, and in the uncoveted wealth of the pastures,

"Quæ Liris quietâ
Mordet aquâ, taciturnus amnis."

But the inner structure of mountain-chains is as varied as their substance; and to this day, in some of its mightier developments, so little understood, that my Neptunian opponent himself, in his address delivered at Cambridge in 1862, speaks of an arrangement of strata, which it is difficult to traverse ten leagues of Alpine limestone without finding an example of, as beyond the limits of theoretical imagination.

I feel tempted to say more; but I have at present little time even for useful, and none for wanton, controversy. Whatever information Mr. Jukes can afford me on these subjects, (and I do not doubt he can afford me much), I am ready to receive, not only without need of his entreaty, but with sincere thanks. If he likes to try his powers of sight, "as corrected by the laborious use of the protractor," against mine, I will in humility abide the issue. But at present the question before the house is, as I understand it, simply whether glaciers excavate lake-basins or not. That, in spite of measurement and survey, here or elsewhere, seems to remain a question. May we answer this first, if answerable? That determined, I think I might furnish some other grounds of debate in this notable cause of Peebles against Plainstones, provided that Mr. Jukes will not in future think his seniority gives him the right to answer me with disparagement instead of instruction, and will bear with the English "student's" weakness, which induces me, usually, to wish rather to begin by shooting my elephant than end by describing it out of my moral consciousness. J. RUSKIN.

MR. RUSKIN ON GLACIERS.

Nov. 26th, 1864.

IN Mr. Ruskin's letter "Concerning Glaciers" in to-day's READER he says:—"A stone at the bottom of a stream or deep sea current necessarily and always presses on the bottom with the weight of the column of water above it, plus the excess of its own weight above that of the bulk of water equal to its own," and compares this with

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the kind of pressure exercised by a solid body (e.g., a stone) under the superincumbent weight of another body (e.g., a glacier). I am not sufficiently versed in statics to enter minutely into the differences of the two forces, but I would call Mr. Ruskin's notice to one or two familiar illustrations as suggestive of the utter inapplicability of the comparison he institutes.

1. Does a diver, on walking on the sea-bed, say at fifty feet from the surface, press with greater force on the bottom, by reason of the extra weight of water over him, than as though he was under ten feet of water?

2. Would the diver be able to sustain on dry land a weight equal to the column of water over him when immersed?

3. Is the specific gravity of a fixed body, or the impact of a body in motion in a vacuum, reduced by the amount of the weight of the absent atmosphere.

It surely is not the fact that the impact of a submerged solid body moved by a current against another solid body is in any way effected by the depth of the submergence, excepting by the slightly greater density of the water at increased depths; in fact, from this very cause the exact reverse to that assumed by Mr. Ruskin takes place.

The inelastic rock becomes lighter in proportion to the increasingly dense water, and, at a given depth, would hypothetically be kept in suspension, and actually removed from all pressure on the bottom.

The increased power of motion and suspension would be correlated with an increased resistance in the transporting medium, and a decreased impact. For example, a given weight can be sustained with less resistance in air than in a vacuum, and still less in water than in air; and just in proportion as the density of the medium, and not of the object transported by it, are equalized, not only will the static weight, but the power of impact of the latter, be reduced.

With regard to the excavating power of glaciers vanishing towards the extremity, Mr. Ruskin seems to overlook the fact that this may not entirely depend on the absolute thickness and weight of the glacier, but rather on the angle at which the pressure from behind is applied.

It is very evident that the nearer the source of the glacier the steeper will be the angle at which it advances from above, and the greater its power of excavation. The angle diminishes with every foot of advance till it becomes, where the force is parallel with the horizon, almost nil, and there is an end to its power of delving; but a slight hollow once formed will always first receive the descending glacier, and lead it down, in this particular part of its course, at the angle at which it has the greatest resistance from behind, and consequently the greatest power of continued excavation, whilst the face of the glacier may ride on in advance at the usual level.

Mr. Ruskin makes much of the partial contact of the glacier with the fundamental rock. The conformity must, however, be pretty close with a material which he compares to semi-fluid honey. The power of excavation will somewhat depend on the proportion of the bearing to the superincumbent weight, and, if only partial, the cutting power over the area of contact would be proportionately increased.

Mr. Ruskin gets rid of the rocks and debris on the under side of the glacier by supposing that they are pressed beyond the range of action into the solid body of the ice; but there must be a limit to this, however soft the matrix. You might as well assume that diamond-dust used by the polisher is inoperative because it is applied with a soft lead backing, or that the softness of the flesh would prevent a grain of sand, pressed by the finger, inflicting a scratch on a pane of glass.

G. M.

CONCERNING STONES.

WHEN a man of genius applies himself to the solution of a special problem, that solution is sure to have an application beyond the immediate limits of the problem solved. This is well illustrated by Mr. Ruskin's remarks, in the last number of THE READER, on the condition of a stone "at the bottom of a stream or of a deep sea-current." "The stone," says Mr. Ruskin, "necessarily and always presses on the bottom, with the weight of the column of water above it—plus the excess of its own weight above that of a bulk of water equal to its own." The same great law, doubtless, applies to every grain of sand carried by rivers to the ocean; and to the mighty pressure of the superincumbent water is to be ascribed the conversion of the friable and inco-

hesive sand into hard coherent rock. A similar theory has already been advanced to account for the conversion of the fallen foliage of tropical forests into soil. The rotten leaves are composted by the pressure of the atmosphere. There can hardly be a doubt that "the drifts of desert sand" referred to by Mr. Ruskin would, if our atmospheric pressure was sufficiently augmented, be converted into millstone grit or some other rock of a similar character.

What reason have we therefore to admire that adjusting Wisdom which, while it permits the ocean to consolidate to adamant the materials which are carried into it, so tempers the pressure of our air as to leave the soil beneath it sufficiently soft for agricultural purposes! Augment the atmospheric pressure but a little, and we should have squeezed from our fruitful fields the humidity necessary to the growth of grass, and of all garden vegetables. A hard intractable enamel would surround our planet, and the only possible representatives of the human race would be the monsters of the deep.

M. A. C.

ELECTRICITY AND THE MOTION OF MOLECULES.

THE theory set forth by "H. S." in his paper on Electricity is wonderfully complete; but is it necessary to solve the problem of which he treats? If I mistake not, the argument may be thus briefly stated:—Every molecule possesses a motion proper to itself; and, if two molecules are brought together in such a manner that they can act on each other, what happens will depend upon the likeness or unlikeness of their separate motions. If they be like, no new force is created; but, if they be unlike, then the opposition of their motions, as explained by "H. S.," gives origin to a third motion, which is new to both; and it is this last which we term electricity. Now that the whole theory rests upon the assumption of pre-existent motions in the molecules so brought together is too evident to need remark; and it is clear also that, if the pre-existence of these motions be granted, the whole theory must follow; but is the ground on which this assumption is based unassailable? Direct experiment and reasonable deduction may have established the position that molecules are the seats of motion under every conceivable condition; but what does this prove? Assuredly nothing beyond the fact that they are capable of so moving. It may be granted, for instance, that heat is a form of motion, but it will not follow therefore that the heat-motion of a molecule is a modification of some pre-existing motion of which it was the seat. Again, the motion of a molecule, under certain conditions, may bear a marked likeness to its motion under other conditions; but this fact will be no proof that the one set of motions is a modification of the other. Now, though a molecule—things being equal—is more prone to fall into a rhythm which is like its own than into one which is unlike, does it follow that this proneness is due to the fact that one set of motions is made out of the other?

To state the case more plainly—A bar of metal may be the seat of molecular motion of a particular kind when placed near a fire, and so heated, and its molecules may fall into another kind of motion when it is laid on a block of ice and so cooled, and yet there will be nothing to prove that its molecules would not fall into a state of rest if every force from without were arrested. In short, it may be granted that each molecule when set in motion will move with a rhythm proper to itself, and that it will more readily become affected by the motions of other molecules as its proper mode of motion is like theirs; but this belief does not lead to the idea that any motion whatever existed in the separate molecules before they were brought together or otherwise excited. It is quite true also that the capability of motion, which we speak of as a capacity for heat, co-exists with that of producing sound, and perhaps light; but, whatever theory may be employed to explain the relation of their capabilities, they undoubtedly point to but one general inference—namely, that the molecules of the substances possessing them are so strong that it is very easy to set them in motion by force acting from without.

Now apply this to the development of electricity and what do we find? If I mistake not, a complete account of the method of its production without the hypothesis of pre-existent motion. Two molecules, which are endowed with a proneness to fall into rhythmical motions proper to themselves, are brought together. Possibly they have not moved before, but, being brought together, motion commences—perhaps because they are

unlike, and so call forth idiosyncrasies—and the result is a new formula of force proper to neither of them, but arising out of their opponency; and thus the actual conditions of the theory of "H. S." may obtain without the aid of his postulate. It is enough, therefore, to regard the formula of motion adopted by the several molecules of matter as specific in their character; and then, whilst recognising but one force in the universe, we shall be prepared to find myriad diverse manifestations of its energy.

Reasoning from the analogies of more evident physical processes, the unlikeness of molecules will suffice to explain the rise of a third order of force-phases, of which light, heat, and electricity may be individuals.

It will be seen, therefore, that the only part of "H. S.'s" theory which I cannot yet receive is that which sets forth how "electricity being a mode of motion, implies the transformation of some pre-existing motion." The first member of the proposition is sufficiently clear, and the latter also, if the motion referred to is only supposed to be called into action instrumentally; but, if it be assumed that it was previously persistent, I think the position requires proof. My object is not, however, so much to oppose the theory as to call forth fresh evidence respecting it; and I can only hope that your correspondents will not lose sight of so interesting a topic, and that "H. S." will return to it at an early opportunity.

Science has much to gain from a systematic study of natural processes; and the correlation of forces which develops itself as the inquiry advances may yet result in the recognition of a single initial power, of which crystallization and life, vegetable and animal, are, perhaps, but the formulated phenomena proper to the passive materials amongst which it operates.

J. MORTIMER GRANVILLE.

THE DECLARATION AGAIN.

Dublin, 21 Nov.

MR. BALL begs to enclose to the Editor of THE READER the copy of a reply sent by him to a circular which has been addressed to a large number of scientific men. A friend has suggested that the Editor may be disposed to publish the letter, as it conveys in very few words the essential objection to the declaration in question.

"85, Stephen's Green, Dublin,
21 Nov., 1864.

"SIR,—Absence from England has caused me to receive at a late date your circular letter of 15 Sept., forwarding for my signature a declaration, of which you say that you trust I shall approve the spirit as well as the terms in which it is expressed.

"If I have rightly understood the document in question, its object is, while conceding in terms the right of free inquiry to the student of physical science, to use the authority of respected names in order to withhold the same privilege from those who are impelled to examine into the authenticity of that portion of Scripture called the Old Testament, or into its accuracy as a record of historical or physical facts.

"As a student of natural science, I know of no other effectual means for the attainment of truth than by free inquiry honestly conducted, and I feel in myself no authority to deny to others the use of the same instrument. Still less do I feel entitled to affix the stigma of presumption on those who, in other fields of investigation, exercise the right which I claim for myself.

"For these reasons I must decline to sign the paper to which you have invited my adhesion.—

I have the honour, &c.,
"Capel H. Berger, Esq.

JOHN BALL."

PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

VIENNA.

Imperial Academy of Sciences, Oct. 6.—Professor Haidinger communicated to the meeting Professor Miller's opinion that a passage at the beginning of the fifteenth canto of the Iliad indicates the simultaneous fall of two large meteorites in the plain of Troy.—A memoir was read by Dr. M. Wretschko "On the History of the Development of Lobed and Primate Leaves;" and M. Carl Fritsch communicated a paper containing the "Results of several years' Observations on the Periodical Phenomena of the Flora and Fauna of Vienna and a portion of the Austrian Alps."—From Professor Peters the Academy received "A Description of the Geological Conditions of the Central and Southern Parts of the Dobrudscha. Professor Peters states that the Cretaceous sandstones and marls of the Babadagh are surrounded by a triple

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

wall, consisting of (1) granite containing much hornblende, (2) quartzose porphyry, and (3) (externally) green schists and massive greenstones. The greatest height (1500 feet) is attained in the granitic peak of Sakao-Bair, near Atmatscha. The greenstones and schists are continued beneath the newer strata into the Southern Dobrudscha, and forms, with the Cretaceous beds, the mountains of Allah-Bair (652 feet) which overlook the plateaux of pasture-land in the south. The latter exhibit four different formations. The lowest is a limestone belonging to the upper Oolite, nearly corresponding to the Stramberg beds in Moravia and the "zone of *Dicerasarietinum*;" this is widely distributed along the right bank of the Danube, and appears to be the fundamental rock of the whole of Northern Bulgaria to the foot of the Balkan. Upon this, to the north of Kustendji, and in the Kara-Su valley, Cretaceous beds again appear; but these are Baculitic clays and white firestone-chalk, instead of the strata of Babadagh. These are covered by Miocene limestones, upon which Miocene fresh-water deposits rest in some places. The whole is covered with a thick deposit of Loess. During an excursion to Lake Yalpuh, in Bessarabia, Professor Peters found that Captain Spratt had grouped together two different formations, in support of his opinion that a vast fresh-water lake formerly occupied the place of the Black Sea, and that no evidence of the existence of such a lake is furnished by the deposits on the lowest course of the Danube.—In the second part of his "Contributions to Phytology" Dr. August Vogl describes the pitchers of *Sarracenia purpurea*, which present some curious characters. The inner surface of the pitcher (including the lid) exhibits four different epidermal structures, one below the other; the lowest portion is destitute of a cuticle and the whole inner surface of stomatal orifices.—"The Determination of the Lengths of the Waves of Fraunhofer's Lines in the Solar Spectrum" is the subject of a paper by Dr. L. Ditscheiner; it contains the determinations of the more important out of 130 Fraunhofer's lines between B and H'.

BRUSSELS.

Royal Academy of Sciences, Aug. 6.—Reports were read from MM. de Koninck, A. de Vaux, and Dewalque upon the nature and properties of the water furnished by Artesian wells at Ostend, upon the useful qualities of which the Belgian Government wished for a scientific opinion. The water is said by the reporters to be an alkaline mineral water, containing about three grammes of solid matter in the litre, the greater part of the residue consisting of chloride of sodium and sulphate and carbonate of soda.—M. Plateau communicated a report on a paper by M. G. Vander Mensbrughe "On some Curious Effects of the Molecular Forces of Liquids." The first portion of this paper bears upon the hypothesis of the vesicular state of visible vapour. M. Felix Plateau found that soap-water, spread out in the air in a thin sheet, broke up into bubbles; and the author has ascertained that pure water, thrown from a considerable height (about forty feet), will produce the same phenomenon. The largest bubbles produced were five or six centimètres in diameter. The same process has succeeded with alcohol, oil of turpentine, and petroleum, and, with more difficulty, with olive-oil. In a second portion M. Vander Mensbrughe describes some experiments made by him with globules of mercury floating on water, which will be found interesting in connexion with the study of the attractions and repulsions manifested by small floating bodies.—The Academy received a "Monograph of the European species of *Sphenophyllum*," by MM. E. Cœmans and J. J. Kickx. The authors consider these plants, which are peculiar to the Coal formation, constitute a peculiar type of Gymnosperms; but they have, unfortunately, not had the opportunity of investigating the organs of fructification. The European species, which the authors reduce in number to six, are carefully described and figured.—M. Melsens presented reports upon a note by M. H. Valerius "On a new Electric Chronoscope with a Revolving Cylinder, founded on the Employment of the Diapason" of his invention, and upon another note by the same author, "On the Vibrations of Glass Threads attached by one of their extremities to a Vibrating Body, and free at the other end."—Professor Van Beneden communicated a notice of a gigantic lobster's claw, found fossil in the clay of Rupelmonde, and also a third appendix to his memoir on the Bdelloidea and Trematoda. He likewise mentioned that he had discovered upon the angel-fish (*Squatina angelus*) a trematode worm of very singular organization, which will constitute a new genus.

Entomological Society, Nov. 7. Mr. F. P. Pascoe, F.L.S., President, in the chair.—Before the scientific business of the meeting was commenced, a handsome silver vase was presented by the President, on behalf of a large number of members of the Society, to Mr. William Wilson Saunders, F.R.S., in acknowledgment of the generous aid which for years he has bestowed upon everything tending to advance and diffuse the science of entomology, and in recognition of his unvarying kindness and constant liberality in support of the Society.

Mr. Janson exhibited four species of Coleoptera—*Ceuthorhynchidens Poweri*, *Lixus filiformis*, *Sybines canus*, and *Peritelus grisens*—all captured in England during the present year, hitherto unrecorded as British, and belonging to Mr. Sidebotham of Manchester. Mr. F. Smith exhibited specimens of the *Bombus pomorum* of Panzer, a species new to Britain. Mr. Edwin Shepherd exhibited *Sesia spheciformis*, bred from pupæ found in the stems of alder-trees in Staffordshire. Mr. W. W. Saunders exhibited some galls found on the roots of an oak at a depth of four feet below the surface, and specimens of a *Cynips* (*C. aptera*?) which had since emerged therefrom, the whole of which specimens were females; also three other kinds of gall, found in Switzerland, two of them upon species of willow and the third formed on the leaves of the beach. Mr. Stainton also exhibited a gall, of a yellowish colour and woolly exterior, found on an oak near Bath.

Mr. F. Smith read extracts from letters received from Mr. S. Stone of Bournemouth on diseases occurring amongst wasps, and on the discovery of extraordinarily large larvæ and pupæ of the parasitic beetle *Ripiphorus paradoxus* in queen-larva cells of *Vespa vulgaris*. Mr. C. A. Wilson of Adelaide communicated some "Notes on South-Australian Entomology." The Secretary read a translation of Dr. Icèry's "Mémoire sur le Pou à poche blanche," a species of *Coccus* which has done much injury to the sugar-cane in the Mauritian plantations. Professor Westwood pointed out that the insect which Dr. Icèry had supposed to be, and had described as, the male of the *Coccus* was, in fact, a *Coccophagus*—a Hymenopterous parasite upon and destroyer of the former. Mr. J. S. Baly read a paper entitled "Descriptions of New Genera and Species of *Phytophaga*," in which four new genera are established and sixteen species described.

Ethnological Society, Nov. 22. Mr. J. Lubbock, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—The new Fellows elected were the Viscount Milton and Mr. H. Danby Seymour, M.P.—The first paper read was "On the Present State of Dahomé," by Capt. R. Burton. We have already given an abstract of this paper. A discussion followed, in which Mr. Galton, the first speaker, traced the importance this African kingdom possesses in European estimation to its geographical position, and the danger of attacks upon the great missionary station of Abukuta.

Mr. Nash noticed the Dahoman ideas of transmitting messages to departed ancestors by the slaughter of victims, and quoted a recent instance of a Breton girl pinning a letter for her dead parent to her mistress's shroud, and the prevalence of similar notions known to have existed in the first century amongst the ancient Gauls; arguing thence that such a superstition was too widespread and too aged to permit of its being attributed only to any one existing people.

Professor Busk commented on the extraordinary discrepancies which occurred in the evidence of these African customs and habits, which were so great as to make it a matter of extreme difficulty to judge what was the truth, and to raise doubts as to the extent, if not even the reality of the occurrences.

The President remarked that the absence of fear of death was not by any means peculiar to the Dahomans, but was exhibited by other negro races.

The second paper read was "On the Principles of Ethnology," by Mr. J. S. Prideaux.—As a provisional arrangement till our knowledge enables us to adopt one founded on a more philosophical basis, the author arranges the types of the British Isles and Western Europe according to their noses—first, *convex*; second, *concave*; third, *straight*, or intermediate. Each group capable of being sub-divided into three, according as the features are, first, *defined* and sharply cut; second, *fleshy* and faintly outlined; third, *intermediate* in definition. And again susceptible of

being sub-divided into three, as the complexion is, first, *light*; second, *dark*; third, *intermediate*.

Important papers on the discovery of human remains and relics of the stone period near Caithness, by Mr. Lang, Professor Huxley, and Mr. John Evans, were announced for the next meeting, when a large audience is anticipated.

Anthropological Society, Nov. 15. Dr. Hunt in the chair.—The following new Members were elected:—Commander Winders, Major Frene, and Messrs. G. Dibley and H. Brookes. Local Secretaries: Rev. W. S. Symonds, Dr. T. Callaway, G. St. Clair, C. J. Nicholls, and R. B. Cole.—The following papers were read:—"Viti and its Inhabitants." By Mr. W. T. Pritchard.—The author collated the results of his personal observations during a period of fifteen years, limiting his remarks especially to Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa. The people who inhabit these three groups are more or less mixed races, though originally totally distinct. The Samoans and Tongans are of Malay origin, the Fijians of Papuan. The physical conformation of these three races was described in detail; and the author entered at great length into the traditions and customs of the natives. He concluded that the early migrations of these nations were involuntary, rather than the result of roving disposition, or of the pressure of limited and over-populated homes, and cited evidence of such accidental transmission of the natives. He further called attention to resemblances which occasionally prevail between the aborigines and the Chinese and North-American Indians.

"The Astronomy of the Red Man of the New World." By Mr. W. Bollaert.—The author described the "telescopic device" of the mound-builders of the United States; examined the stone zodiac of the Aztecs—their method of obtaining a meridian line; the recent discovery of the Maya hieroglyphic alphabet; and the stone lunar calendars of the Chibchas of Bogotá. Diagrams and models of the objects described were exhibited.

"The Neanderthal Skull: its peculiar Conformation explained Anatomically." By Dr. J. Barnard Davis.—The author remarked on the great interest which had been attached to the Neanderthal skull, whose remarkable form had been supposed to afford a basis for that approximation to pithecoïd conformation which appeared to be much wanted for the better support of ingenious doctrines under consideration. He merely proposed to speak of the true meaning of the forms of the relic itself. When Dr. Schaffhausen's memoir was translated by Professor Busk, Dr. Davis then possessed in his collection a calvarium which struck him as having a great resemblance to the Neanderthal skull. He gave a detailed description of this skull in comparison with the Neanderthal specimen. Very important facts were elicited respecting the condition of the sutures in the latter, contained in a letter from Professor Fuhlrott, in which it was stated that the coronal suture was only obscurely perceptible on the skull, the sagittal suture entirely obliterated, the lambdoidal being very plain as well as the squamous; this careful examination leading Dr. Davis to the result which he had previously arrived at, that the Neanderthal skull is simply an abnormal example, and owes its peculiar forms to synostosis of the cranial bones before the calvarium had attained its full development. Stress was especially laid on the influence produced by premature ossification of the sagittal suture, and reference made to the writings of Welcker and Lucal on the subject. Instances were cited of living persons possessing remarkably large frontal sinuses; and the important distinctions between the hollow superciliary ridge of man and the solid buttress of bone which formed the crest of the gorilla were pointed out. Declining to enter into the question of the antiquity of the skull, he considered it probable that an extreme antiquity belonged to the remains; in favour of which theory, however, the peculiar conformation of the calvarium could not be cited as an argument. The skull in Dr. Davis's collection (No. 1029) was carefully described and figured in the paper, and reference was made to analogous examples in the collections of Sömmering and Morton. He agreed with Professors Huxley and Broca in opposing the theory that the Neanderthal skull was that of an idiot, but differed from the former authority by pointing out that there was no evidence that the skull belonged to an inferior race. He doubted whether the very ancient inhabitants of Europe—taking the ancient Britons, who had normal skulls, as a fair example—were inferior in cerebral organization to the present races.

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Royal Asiatic Society, Nov. 21. Sir Edward Colebrooke, Bart., M.P., President, in the chair.—Mr. E. Thomas mentioned that he had succeeded in identifying the Xandrames (*Ξανδράμης*, Diod. Sic., xviii. 93) of classical authors—the king of the Gangetic provinces, who was prepared to oppose Alexander in his progress beyond the Hyphasis—with *Kunanda*, one of the Nanda brotherhood of nine joint-kings. The original suggestion for this association was derived from the Arabic text of Masaudi, who adverts to the potentate in question under the transcription of K. N. D. [Kunanda?] His statement is strengthened by corroborative passages in the *Sháh Námah*, and other ancient Persian works; while, on Indian ground, the Ceylon annals contribute, in the Pali version of the *Mahávanso*, singular confirmation of the quasi-oligarchical system of government of these Nandas prior to their extinction by Chandra Gupta, incidentally furnishing another instance of the East reasserting itself, and correcting the errors or amending the shortcomings of the Greek authors, who discoursed upon India beyond their knowledge. A full statement of the data upon which this identification is based will appear in the journal.—A letter was read from Mr. A. Burnell on the present state of Hinduism and Sanskrit scholarship in Southern India, and the introductory portion of a paper by Mr. J. Muir, entitled "Progress of the Vedic Religion towards Abstract Conceptions of the Deity."

Numismatic Society, Nov. 17. Mr. W. S. W. Vaux, President, in the chair.—Mr. S. F. Cockran and Captain Stubbs, R. H. A., were elected Members of the Society.—Mr. Taylor exhibited three 2 Rigsdaler pieces of Denmark: 1, of Frederick VII., 1854; 2, a memorial-piece, with the heads of Frederick VII. and Christian IX., recording the date of the death of the one and the accession of the other; and, 3, a piece of Christian IX., 1864. Mr. Gunston exhibited a large number of small brass coins of Petricus I. and II., of Victorinus, and several barbarous imitations of them struck in the country. Mr. Brent exhibited a few coins of the same class from the same find. Mr. Roach Smith exhibited two brass British coins found at Springhead, near Southfleet. Mr. J. G. Akerman exhibited a gold Merovingian coin.

Mr. Vaux read a paper, communicated by M. D. Pierides, "On an unedited Copper Coin of Evagoras," found in Cyprus, in which he prefers assigning it to the first Evagoras rather than to his grandson.

Mr. Madden read a paper by himself "On some Gold Coins bearing the name of Theodosius," in which he showed that M. Cohen had erred in attributing to Theodosius I. some gold coins with the full-faced helmeted bust which indubitably belong to Theodosius II.

Mr. Evans read a letter from Mr. J. Harland, F.S.A., and also some extracts from the *Manchester Guardian*, Aug. 16, 1864, respecting the "Eccles Find of Silver Coins." It is hoped that the Crown authorities will allow them to be examined previous to dispersion, as they will no doubt throw much light on the still agitated question of the "short-cross pennies."

Civil Engineers, Nov. 15. W. J. R. McClean, President, in the chair.—The paper read was "On the Decay of Materials in Tropical Climates, and the Methods employed for arresting and preventing it." By Mr. G. O. Mann.—The facts and experience recorded in this paper had reference particularly to the empire of Brazil, the author being the Resident Engineer and Locomotive Superintendent of the Recife and Sao Francisco Railway Company. It was stated that the temperature varied less probably than in any other quarter of the globe; but the seasons, which, it was believed, influenced the decay of materials to a greater extent than the temperature, were not so regular. Thus, the rainfall ranged from 60 inches to 120 inches per annum, and this did not occur at any particular period, though a certain peculiarity in the climate, excessive heat combined with much moisture, was noticeable more or less throughout the year. The only examples of iron bridges in the province of Pernambuco, except that of St. Isabel, completed in 1863, were those belonging to the railway. The result of a careful examination of four of these structures, after they had been erected six years, was to show that the cast-iron pipe piles, forming the piers, were likely to remain good for a considerable period, and that the upper structures of wrought iron would also last well with ordinary attention. The only parts apparently affected were the wrought-iron bracings and the bolts and nuts below high-water mark. With regard to the preservation of iron bridges, and of iron work in general, for the

tropics, care ought to be taken to insure the iron being perfectly dry before the paint, or any other composition, was laid on. Coal tar had been found to afford a most efficient protection. It was advisable that all small pieces should, before being shipped, be heated to a low temperature, and then brushed with and dipped in tar; the larger parts should be well cleansed, and the tar laid on while hot. Where tar was objectionable, linseed-oil might be applied in the same way, and over this there should be a thin coating of zinc paint.

Institute of British Architects, Nov. 7. Mr. Thos. L. Donaldson, President, in the chair.—The President read a letter from Mr. Tite, M.P., past-President, forwarding a cheque for £50 as a contribution to the library-fittings fund.

The President delivered his opening Address, in the course of which he referred with satisfaction to the establishment of local architectural associations in Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, and other large towns. He expressed the greater gratification at this fact inasmuch as the municipal development throughout the country gave rise to the building of Town-halls, Courts, Museums, and other public edifices of importance to a greater extent than at any former period, calling for the exercise of local talent in a corresponding degree. The President passed on to notice the decease of several valued members of the Institute, including Mr. H. E. Goodridge of Bath, Mr. Charles H. Smith, and Mr. C. Winston. The remainder of the Address was devoted to an elaborate essay in favour of the cultivation and study of classic architecture, not to the neglect of the mediæval and other schools of art, but in conjunction with them, and enjoining the most catholic spirit in the study and exercise of their profession.

CAMBRIDGE.

Philosophical Society, Oct. 31.—The following communications were read:—"Autographs of the Sun," 1863 and 1864." By Professor Selwyn. "On the Molecular Constitution of Carbon Compounds." By Mr. Alfred Catton.—"It is the object of this note to place upon record the results at which I have arrived with reference to the molecular constitution of carbon compounds. The theoretical reasoning on which my views are based, and the experiments in support of them, have occupied me during the last two years. The hypothesis on which my views are based are as follows:—That the arrangement of the atoms in the molecules of compound bodies determines the manner in which they split up under the influence of chemical reagents. The general conclusion at which I have arrived may be thus stated:—All carbon compounds are functions of C_2 , C_2O_2 , O_2C_2 , $O_2C_2O_2$, C_2H_2 , $C_2O_2H_2$, $O_2C_2H_2$, $O_2C_2O_2H_2$, in the same manner as it has been hitherto supposed that these compounds are functions of C_1H_1O . The arrangement of the atoms in C_2O_2 and $O_2C_2O_2$ is the same as in the molecule of carbonic oxide and carbonic anhydride; but in O_2C_2 the arrangement is not the same as in the molecule of carbonic oxide; but O_2C_2 is such that, when oxidized, it is converted into carbonic anhydride. Thus: O_2C_2 and $O_2 = O_2C_2O_2$." The paper concludes with typical examples of Mr. Catton's views of the constitution of organic compounds.

University Natural Science Society, Nov. 1.—The following communication was read:—"On the Development, Comparative Osteology, and Theories of the Skull." By Mr. H. Seeley, F.G.S.

MANCHESTER.

Literary and Philosophical Society, Nov. 1.—Dr. R. Angus Smith, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—The following were elected Ordinary Members:—Mr. W. Cort Wright, F.C.S., Mr. G. Heppel, and Mr. W. Mather.

Mr. Sidebotham said that he had noticed the common statement that beech-trees were never damaged by lightning. He had been induced to collect facts on the subject, and had found that out of twenty-eight instances the trees struck were:—Oak, 9; poplar, 7; ash, 4; willow, 3; horse-chestnut, 1; chestnut, 1; walnut, 1; thorn, 1; elm, 1, respectively.

Mr. Binney remarked that strokes of lightning were generally determined by the nature of the subsoil, and that in certain localities thunderstorms were very destructive, while in others they were comparatively harmless and damage by lightning hardly ever occurred. The beech, it was well known, was generally found growing upon dry, sandy soils, which were bad conductors of electricity, and which therefore acted as protectors against destructive lightning discharges.

The President gave an account of an aspirator which had been contrived for him by Mr. J. B. Dancer of Cross Street, to be used in the analysis of mixed gases, &c.

Dr. Joule described the process he employs to harden steel wires for magnetic needles. The wire was held stretched between the ends of two iron rods bent into a semi-circular shape. The free ends of the iron rods could be placed in connexion with a voltaic battery by means of mercury cups. Underneath the steel wire a trough of mercury was placed. When the ends of the iron rods dip into the cups the current passes through the wire, heating it to any required extent. When these ends are lifted the current is cut off, while at the same instant the heated wire is immersed in the trough of mercury.

Nov. 15. Dr. Angus Smith, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—A letter from Mr. J. Nasmyth was read, embodying some ideas he entertains in regard to the vast antiquity of the features and details of the lunar surface. The President read a paper "On the Composition of the Atmosphere." He believed that his inquiry proved that the oxygen test was a very valuable one, as indicating the condition of the atmosphere. The oxygen was diminished in many cases, and indeed in all cases where the air was known to be inferior. He said the objection to such air may perhaps be found not so much in the absence of oxygen as in the gases which take its place. That place was not wholly supplied by carbonic acid. He believed it needful to examine the composition to the second decimal place in the case of oxygen, and to the third or even fourth in the case of carbonic acid, as extremely small amounts of some gases affect us. Hitherto we have had the composition of the air given in numbers varying a tenth per cent.; specimens have generally been taken from rooms or streets or open places indiscriminately. It is the author's wish to show that variations are dependent on the conditions of soil, situation, wind, &c., and that the oxygen and carbonic acid together may, with very minute analysis, guide us in our sanitary inquiries.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5th.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 2.—Albemarle Street. General Monthly Meeting of Members.
ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, at 8.—"Anatomy." Mr. R. Partridge.
MEDICAL, at 8.—53, Berners Street, Oxford Street. "On the Constitutional Character and Modifications of Skin Diseases." Dr. Habershan.
SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, at 8.—1, Adam Street, Adelphi. "Observations on a Digest of Law, with reference to the Address delivered at York by the President of the Department." Mr. F. S. Reilly.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6th.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—25, Great George Street, Westminster.
ANTHROPOLOGICAL, at 8.—4, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square. "On the Contents of a Kist from Keiss, N.B.," Mr. Samuel Laing, F.G.S. "On the Discovery of a large Kistvaen in the Muckle Hoog, in the Island of Unst, Shetland, containing Vessels of Chloritic Schist." Mr. Geo. E. Roberts, F.G.S., with Notes upon the Human Remains: Mr. C. Carter Blake, F.G.S. "On some Prehistoric Hut Circles." Mr. Geo. E. Roberts. "On some Ancient Skulls." Dr. T. W. Smart. "On Tumuli from Cheltenham." Dr. Bird.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7th.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 4.30.—4, St. Martin's Place.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi.
MEDICAL, at 8.—53, Berners Street, Oxford Street. "Lectures on Lettsoman Lectures." Dr. Thudichum.
GEOLOGICAL, at 8.—Somerset House. 1. "On the Geology of Otago, New Zealand." Mr. James Hector, M.D. 2. "On the Excavation of Deep Lake-basins in Hard Rocks in the Southern Alps of New Zealand." Mr. Julius Haast, Ph.D., Government Geologist. 3. "Notes to a Sketch-map of the Province of Canterbury, New Zealand, showing the Glaciation during the Pleistocene and Recent Times." Mr. Julius Haast, Ph.D. 4. "Notes on Dr. Haast's Papers." Sir R. I. Murchison, K.C.B., F.R.S.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th.

ROYAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th.
ASTRONOMICAL, at 8.—Somerset House.

MUSIC.

THE ENGLISH OPERA — "LOVE'S RANSOM."

MR. HATTON has been long known as one of the cleverest of our English musicians, and the production of his new work by the "English Opera Company" was naturally looked forward to with hopeful interest. But it is impossible to report favourably of "Love's Ransom." It is the dullest, dreariest piece to which we have listened for a very long while. And yet, on recalling its several numbers, one cannot deny that there is much true music in it, much elegant vocal-writing, and ample evidence of the musicianly skill, knowledge, and ingenuity of the composer. But, with all this, it fails to interest; and one cause of the failure, at least, is not far to seek. Its *libretto* is of a dulness and prolixity which

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would have almost paralyzed the genius of a Mozart. The present condition of English opera is a mass of puzzles, and one of the strangest of these puzzles is that composers who have reputations to make or to lose should be found to waste their labour upon plots and dialogues so entirely contemptible as we often find them working on. Italian operas, it may be said, are commonly poor enough as plays; and so they are. Their literary execution is such that it can be scarcely called literature at all: they might reckon with the *biblia a-biblia* of Charles Lamb's famous classification, among Court calendars and draught-boards; but then they have always some story in them, foul as it often may be—some life, however coarse; they give a composer some chance of expressing emotion or of making one or two powerful scenes. But our English musicians, it seems, demand nothing more of a libretto than that it shall be a libretto. So long as it has the requisite number of personages and the desired number of acts, that is enough. They seem to forget that they are not only wasting their own energies, but degrading the divine art by associating it with what is dull, stupid, and frivolous. A play, be it musical or not musical, ought to have interest of some kind, comic or serious, fun or pathos, or, at the least, the interest of a curiously knit series of incidents. And a libretto, even if taken as a mere collection of stage-directions, may have interest in this sense. Its verbal polish may have to give way sometimes to the necessities of musical treatment; but it need not, therefore, cease to be an intelligent and intelligible production. But books of the class of which "Love's Ransom" is a type have none of these first conditions of reasonableness. They are too dull to evoke a smile and too foolish to allow a listener or spectator to care a farthing what happens or does not happen to any personage of the piece. They are fit neither to amuse a child nor to interest a man. Till this matter is mended English opera will remain what it has hitherto been—a low form of art. If there was no chance of its being mended, the case would be hopeless indeed. But happily there are signs of better things. Mr. Macfarren's example has shown that there are musicians who prefer not to work on what is drivelling or childish; and Mr. Oxenford's talent, though a rare one, is not surely so rare that only one man could be found in England who can write English worthy of being clothed in music.

The particular opera-book which Mr. Hatton has set to music is worth a few lines of notice for its excessive badness. "Love's Ransom" is an example of every fault that an opera-book can have, except—to be just—that it is not indecorous. English opera is dull, but it contrives generally to be decent. The story, if a single incident can be called a story, is this:—A maid-servant steals 3000 francs from her mistress to buy off her lover from the conscription. She intends to put the money back, but cannot, as her own money, which is in the keeping of her "guardian," is stolen too. She is found out and taken up, and is, of course, about to be carried off by the officers of justice, &c., when the second 3000 francs are recovered, and things end happily. That is all; about material enough, as any one may see, for a one-act after-piece. But, as it had to be made into an opera to last three hours and a half, the little story is padded out by two artifices; first, by the introduction of additional personages, who have nothing whatever to do with the matter, and, secondly, by a liberal supply of ballads, to be sung, soliloquy-fashion, when the *dramatis personæ* have nothing better to do. There are seven chief characters. Of these, two, *Blancet* (Mr. Corri) and *Georgette* (Madame Weiss), have absolutely nothing to do with the story; and, as they have also nothing to do individually, they are made to marry each other as an excuse for existing at all. The leading bass, *Jacques* (Mr. Weiss), the heroine's "guardian," has also nothing to do, except to bring in a box of money two minutes before the curtain falls. *Theresa* (Miss Poole), the girl's mistress, has also nothing to do, except to go away in order that the 3000 francs may be conveniently stolen. A certain *Captain* (Mr. Aynsley Cook) is but little more active; still he is a legitimate instrument in the story, and sings one really humorous song. There remain only two persons, *Rose* (Madame Sherrington), and her lover *Stephen* (Mr. Perren), out of whom it was possible to get any interest. Without an indefinite allowance of ballads, therefore, the piece could not proceed at all; and the opera may accordingly be described, not unfairly, as a string of mild ballads and soliloquy-scenes, broken by the introduction of some very elegant concerted music. A quartett

in the first act, "Wizard, with thy wondrous skill," a trio in the second, and an *Andante ensemble* in the last finale ("Dear Rose, with thy pure breath") may be singled out as especially charming. They exhibit all the freedom and grace which those who know Mr. Hatton's part-writing would expect in his stage music. They show, too, a certain Mozartean delicacy in the accompaniments, which is peculiarly grateful in these days of over-instrumentation. These pieces are, however, essentially chamber-music. They could hardly be otherwise; for music, to be dramatic, must illustrate either action or passion, and the scenes here set have but the feeblest touches of feeling or of movement. Nor is it in the concerted pieces alone that the charm of Mr. Hatton's style is apparent. One, at least, of the solos is worthy of special mention. This is the heroine's air, "O blessed sleep," in the third act, the orchestration of which is of rare beauty, and which Madame Sherrington sings with a delicacy and sweetness that completely captivate her audience. Generally indeed, when Mr. Hatton keeps clear of the one fatal snare of English composers, his music is just what one would desire to listen to. To this snare, however, he yields as unresistingly as any of his brethren. His present opera is, as we have said, a string of ballads; and these are neither better nor worse than the general average of such productions. Not that the ballad-form, as such, is to be despised. Narrow as it is, original genius can find in it scope for genuine expression. Mr. Balfe's operas, even the weakest of them, are seldom destitute of some one or two such gleams of golden melody as "The power of Love," or "The light of other days." And, if Mr. Hatton could always be certain of writing ballads to match with his "Good-bye! sweetheart," one might welcome some three or four such pretty bits of tune in the course of a three-act opera; but, now that the type has become so utterly hackneyed—when every cadence yet invented, every trick or turn of ornament, has been plagiarized and re-plagiarized scores of times—it is no small feat of musical invention to make an original ballad; and, if a composer is obliged, or obliges himself, to produce a fresh dozen for every opera he brings out, the inevitable result, as a rule, must be a dead level of dullness. Such it is with "Love's Ransom." Platitudes of music, fittingly matched with platitudes of rhyme—whining sentimentalities about "My own native vale," and such like sources of emotion—utterances whose only merit is the ingenuity of vagueness which adapts them equally to any conceivable set of people or circumstances fill up two-thirds of the piece. If there is any one that rises above the level of the rest it is, perhaps, *Rose's* "Gentle flower," which Madame Sherrington warbles so prettily that we cannot quarrel with such sweet tones, however insipid the melody they convey, or, perhaps, *Stephen's* "Farewell, my mountain life," which is built on a sufficiently graceful phrase. The songs, on the other hand, which fall to Mr. Weiss's lot, "They call me wizard" and "The years roll on," reach the very depths of leaden ponderosity. Let it be confessed, nevertheless, that many of these ballads evoke no small applause—applause which, after allowing for the perfunctory demonstrations of interested sympathizers, represents some genuine enjoyment. How far the fact is an evidence of real merit may be inferred from another noticeable circumstance that the same people who applaud these songs applaud with ten times as much vehemence a bit of "ballet divertissement" thrust into the scene of the wedding, which is only remarkable as an exhibition of the audaciously indecent gymnastics of the French stage. That applause is a fair measure of the taste which rewards with an *encore* just those parts of the work of which the composer has the least occasion to be proud. Such success as this proves, not that such music delights the musical public, but that the public at present attracted by English opera is a non-musical one. It is for composers and managers together to decide which public they will rest upon. Any sort of art, in a population so vast as ours, will of course find its circle of admirers. But steady effort in the right direction may raise English opera to a better place than it now holds. The course taken by the "English Opera Company" up to this point has shown its directors to be alive to the true policy—a policy which would be incomplete if a hearing were not given to the works of men like Mr. Hatton. Let us hope that the chances thus given to English composers will not be thrown away. If our musicians would write to please themselves the prospect would soon brighten. So long as they produce what they knew to be worthless because there is larger market for the bad than

the good, "National Opera" will be but the name for a trade speculation. Let it be added that the execution of the new opera is creditable to the singers employed. It is not Mr. Honey's fault that he cannot bring fun out of a heavy comic song; nor can Mr. George Perren or Miss Poole be blamed because their voices are almost lost in the vast area of a theatre built to give audience to the exceptional voices of the world. R. B. L.

MUSICAL NOTES.

EVERYONE will wish well to the series of Popular Promenade Concerts to commence to-night at St. Martin's Hall. The Danish singers, who have won so much applause in other places, are to appear there.

ADMIRABLE concerts have been given at the Crystal Palace on the two last Saturdays. The Symphony of this day fortnight was Schumann's in B; last week it was Beethoven in F, No. 8, which, with Mendelssohn's "Loreley" and Capriccio in B minor, and the great Procession March from the "Queen of Sheba," made up an abundant programme. Mr. Manns' choir acquitted itself very creditably in the not easy choruses of "Loreley," and Mr. Dannreuther's performance of Mendelssohn's Capriccio was a piece of pianoforte-playing of the highest order.

THE programme of the Musical Society's proceedings for the ensuing year omits all mention of the meetings of a choral class. This feature in the original plan having been abandoned, it is contemplated, we understand, to organize the choir, lately conducted by Mr. Smart, into a private society. The meetings were much enjoyed by those who took part in them, and there is no doubt that Mr. Smart's able leadership will gather round him, if the plan is carried out, an effective body of amateur choralists.

MENDELSSOHN'S "Elijah" will be performed at the National Choral Society's first concert this season at Exeter Hall on Wednesday, the 14th instant. In addition to Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Sims Reeves, the following singers have been engaged:—Miss Palmer, Miss Palmer Lisle, Miss Annie Cox, Mr. Lewis Thomas, Mr. Frederic Walker, and Mr. Edward Murray, with a chorus of 700 voices; the band being conducted by Mr. G. W. Martin.—The Christmas performance of the "Messiah," with Miss Louisa Pyne as principal soprano, is announced for Wednesday, December 21st.

MUSICAL amateurs will hear with regret that the Monday Popular Concerts at St. James's Hall are not to commence this year till the 16th January. This will be a serious deprivation to the lovers of good music. We presume that Mr. Anderson's constant occupation of the Hall for his magical and anti-Davenportian displays is the cause of the delay.

THE rumour that Mr. Balfe has left England permanently to reside in Paris has been contradicted on authority.

THE copyright of Professor Bennett's "May Queen" produced at Messrs. Cook and Hutchins's recent sale the sum of £549. 8s. 6d.

AMONG the rumours as to amateur societies in process of formation is one which announces the projected establishment of a "Civil Service Society." A preliminary meeting on the subject was held on Thursday last.

A CONCERT in honour of Meyerbeer was given last Sunday at the Paris Conservatoire. The programme was miscellaneous.

MDLLE. TITIENS has been singing in "Fidelio" at Hamburg.

THE brothers Holmes, violinists, are playing with considerable success in Paris.

THE Opera di Camera entertainment was brought to a close on Saturday, after a successful season, to enable Mr. and Mrs. German Reed and Mr. John Parry to reappear in a series of their popular "Illustrations," commencing next Monday evening with "The Rival Composers," "The Bard and his Birthday," and Mr. Parry's descriptive song, "The Seaside, or Mrs. Roscleaf out of Town."

MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

DECEMBER 5th to DECEMBER 10th.

MONDAY.—Concert at Hanover Square Rooms, 8 p.m.
FRIDAY.—"Judas Maccabeus," Sacred Harmonic Society, Exeter Hall, 7.30 p.m.
SATURDAY.—Crystal Palace Orchestral Concert, 3 p.m.—First Popular Concert at St. Martin's Hall, 8 p.m.

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